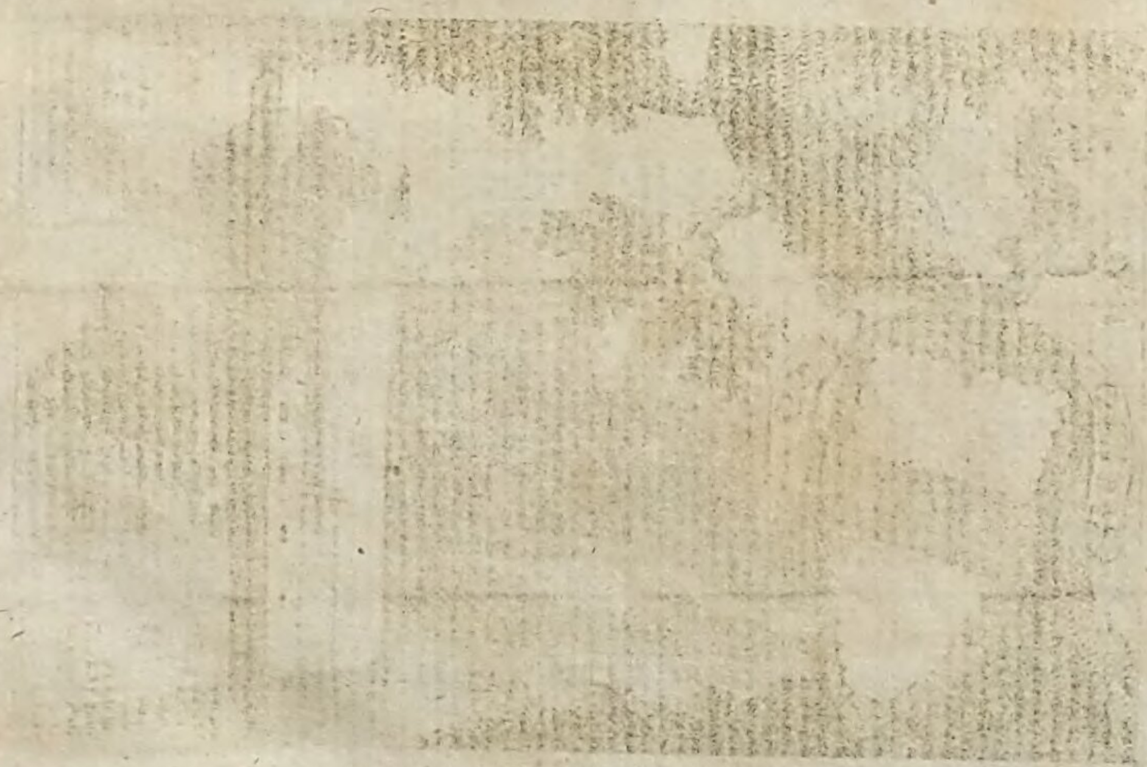
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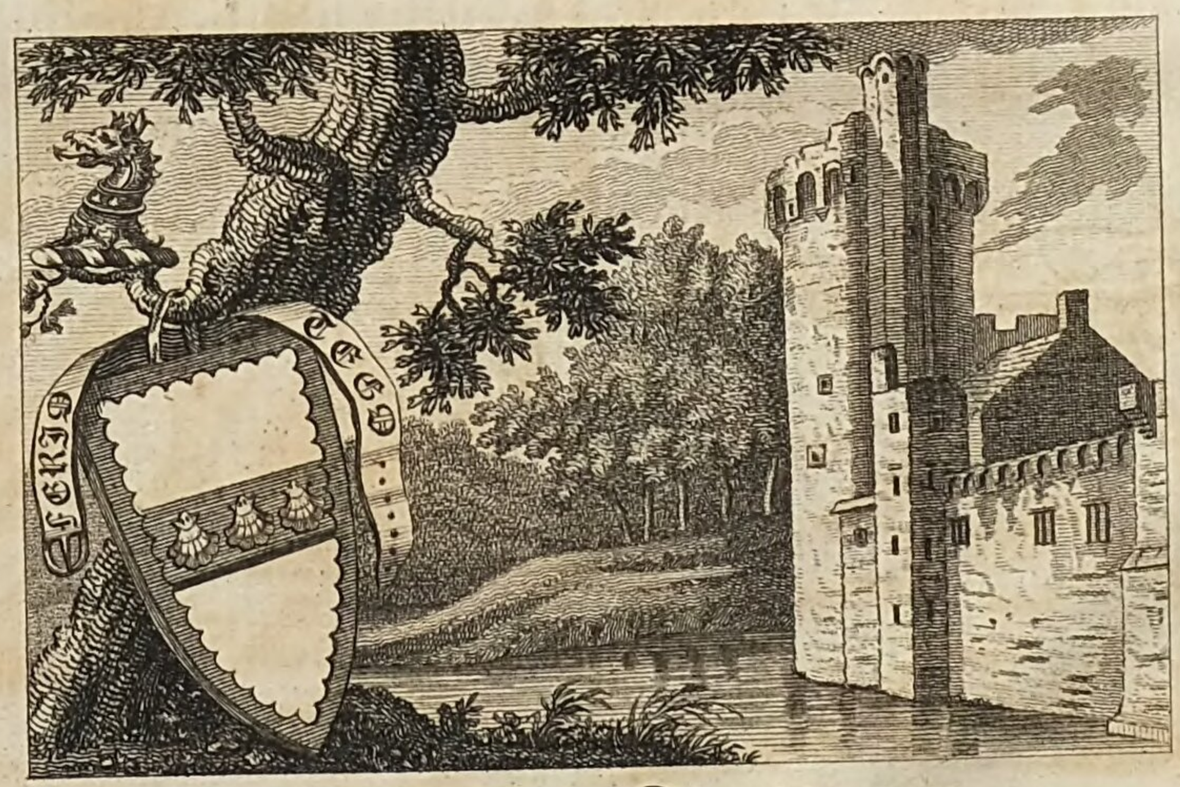
WRITTEN

DURING THE REIGNS OF

HENRY VI. EDWARD IV.

AND

RICHARD III.



CAISTER TOWER.

LONDON,
Printed for G. G. J. and J. Robinson, in Pater-noster-Row.
1787.



T.Cook fculp.

HENRY. VI.

From an Original Drawing, taken between 1460 & 1470.
Now in the Poſſeſſion of John Fenn Esq.r F.A.S.

ORIGINAL LETTERS,

Written during the REIGNS of

HENRY VI. EDWARD IV.

AND

RICHARD III.

By various Perſons of RANK or CONSEQUENCE;

CONTAINING

Many curious ANECDOTES, relative to that turbulent and bloody, but hitherto dark, PERIOD of our HISTORY;

AND

Elucidating, not only PUBLIC MATTERS of STATE, but likewiſe the PRIVATE MANNERS of the AGE:

Digeſted in CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER;

WITH

NOTES, Hiſtorical and Explanatory;

AND

Authenticated by Engravings of AUTOGRAPHS, FAC SIMILES, PAPER-MARKS, and SEALS.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

By JOHN FENN, Eſq. M.A. and F.A.S.

"Tempora mutantur."

"Litera ſcripta manet."

THE SECOND EDITION, WITH ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS.

VOL. I.

LONDON,

Printed for G. G. J. and J. ROBINSON, in Pater-noſter-Row.

MDCCLXXXVII.

KGL. BIBL. BAYER. BIBLIOTHEK MÜNCHEN

TO

THE KING.

SIR,

THE Honour of laying my Book at the foot of Majesty constitutes the smallest part of my pleasure, on receiving YOUR ROYAL PERMISSION for this Address.

I glory in the conscious satisfaction of dedicating it, to the Munificent Encourager of Knowledge in general; to the Avowed Patron of that particular Branch of it, the Antiquities of These Kingdoms; to a Prince, Who has no cause to blush at the Idea, that Posterity

may

may read, in the private Letters of the preſent Age, the undiſguiſed Opinion which His Subjects entertained of His moſt ſecret Actions.

A Permiſſion to dedicate to ſuch a KING, is an Honour ſo highly flattering, that it will ever be remembered with the utmoſt Gratitude.

Condeſcend, MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN, to accept this humble Teſtimony of profound Reſpect, from

YOUR MAJESTY's

Moſt loyal Subject,

And moſt dutiful Servant,

East Dereham,
November 23, 1786.

Jn.o Fenn.

PREFACE.

ALL civilized Nations have been anxious to preſerve every authentic record of their former tranſactions, both public and private; and with the greateſt reaſon, ſince even the proof of their exiſtence, as a nation of conſequence in the eſtimation of the real hiſtorian, who pays no attention to fabulous narratives, entirely depends upon ſuch undoubted memorials. Nations preſerve Records.

Whenever, therefore, any particular period of a great nation is imperfectly known, from the want of real and authentic records; every one, who wiſhes to ſee an unbroken chain of national events, will with the greateſt eagerneſs ſeize any information of undoubted authority, which preſents itſelf, from which either new matter may ariſe, or the truth of accounts now exiſting may be aſcertained, and confirmed. Defective Period to be ſupplied.

That our own kingdom has fewer authentic records of the tranſactions, during the reigns of Henry VI. Edward IV. and Richard III. than of many other earlier periods of our Hiſtory, is a truth known to, and lamented by, every man of hiſtorical knowledge. Few Records of the Reigns of Henry VI. Ed. IV. and Rich. III.

This deficiency of information in the above period ariſes from the following cauſes. The Reaſons.

I. The civil contentions between the houſes of York and Lancaſter.

II. The ſlaughter of our nobility and gentry in the field, and on the ſcaffold.

III. The unſettled ſtate of property.

IV. The invention of printing *at the time.*

The operation of the three firſt cauſes is very obvious; but as it may ſeem paradoxical to aſſert, that an invention to which learning owes its preſent wide diffuſion, ſhould, in its infancy, have had a contrary effect, a few words of explanation on the fourth may not be improper.

Employment of our early Printers.

At the *beginning* of the art of printing, thoſe who practiſed it, were ſolicitous to perpetuate things already committed to writing, relative to paſt times and paſt occurrences; not regarding recent tranſactions as of equal conſequence.

This art likewiſe probably prevented the writers of manuſcripts from multiplying their copies; they foreſeeing that the new invention would, in time, ſupply a ſufficient number at a much leſs price, by which means the value of their manual labour would be greatly diminiſhed: and the early printers being buſy in preparing for the preſs old Hiſtories, Legends, Dicts and Sayings of Philoſophers, Tranſlations, &c. &c. could not find time for printing the then modern hiſtory, which being preſerved by few, the manuſcripts containing it were eaſily loſt, or deſtroyed, and ſo never came down to us.

Reformation ravage not conſidered.

The Deſtruction which overwhelmed our manuſcripts and records at the Reformation, is not here conſidered; as that affected all the preceding ages, equally with that which is now under our conſideration.

Some

Some hiſtoric manuſcripts, however, were without doubt locked up amongſt family writings, where they remained unregarded and uſeleſs for centuries; the poſſeſſors, if they knew they had ſuch papers, conſidering them as of no conſequence; and if ever they were *afterwards* looked at, the examiner perhaps caſt them aſide as illegible. Hiſtoric MSS. preſerved.

Would the ancient nobility and gentry of this kingdom, and the preſent owners of manors and eſtates, formerly belonging to religious ſocieties, or to old and reſpectable families, permit their wormeaten writings and mouldy papers to be carefully peruſed by thoſe whoſe education and purſuits have given them knowledge and taſte for ſuch an undertaking, it might not even now be too late to diſcover, and bring to light, many curious and valuable manuſcripts, which probably would afford us freſh information in various arts and ſciences, confirm doubtful Facts, and fix on ſure foundations many events in our own hiſtory, even from very early periods down to the Reformation, now unknown or uncertain. Search for ancient writings.

Theſe letters, which are here preſented to the public, are a convincing proof, both of the preſervation of ſuch papers, and of the neglect which attends them; for though they were in the poſſeſſion of different antiquaries for above a century, they have lain by totally neglected, and perhaps forgotten. Theſe letters an example.

It is a truth greatly to be lamented, that almoſt all general collectors, though eager in their purſuit, are fickle in the object; whereas would they confine their attention Faults of general collectors.

to one particular, and having laid in a ſufficient fund of materials, then uſe the ſame induſtry in digeſting and arranging thoſe materials, as they before employed merely in collecting them, and when thus put into order, give them to the public, how much good would they do to ſociety, and to themſelves! inſtead of which, as ſoon as a ſufficient quantity of matter is amaſſed for their originally intended plan, the whole is laid aſide, and a new purſuit takes place: thus, wandering from one ſpecies of collecting to another, their life wears away; they become old men, and paſs to their grave without having benefited their contemporaries by any uſeful or curious publication; too often, it is to be feared, with ruined, or at leaſt waſted eſtates; their collections are then diſperſed by public ſale, perhaps for the ſame purpoſe as before collected—*to be looked at, laid aſide, and forgotten!*

Foregoing remarks exemplified

Theſe obſervations occurred from the editor's particular acquaintance with a great collector, poſſeſſed of ſound abilities, and whoſe judgment in points of antiquarian knowledge was extenſive; who frequently made reſolutions, that *next year* he would digeſt his various collections, and form ſome of them for public inſpection: but he wanted perſeverance; he grew old; he died in his chair, at the advanced age of ſeventy-four years, without ever having completed any literary undertaking, and in circumſtances from which his children felt the effects of his indiſcretions.

Preſent age has learned writers.

To the honour, however, of the preſent age, we have ſeveral learned antiquaries and collectors, who have already pub-

publiſhed, and are ſtill preparing for the preſs, works, which now place them amongſt the firſt writers, and will convey their names to future ages with due credit to themſelves, and honour to their country.

They ſhould be examples to others.

Would collectors in general follow ſuch examples, and each contribute his ſtock to the public fund of learning, how many uſeful and ingenious publications would come abroad! the rage for collections, acquired with loſs of fortune, would be in a great meaſure ſtopped; and thoſe already *prudently* made, would remain in the reſpective families of the original collector, as marks of his taſte and learning.

Reflections on paſt ages.

What a pleaſure would it be to a perſon fond of examining into the events of paſt ages, to be able to converſe with thoſe who lived in the times, and were preſent at the events themſelves! As this cannot be, will not the next degree of pleaſure ariſe from reading what thoſe very perſons, at the very time when the events happened, wrote to their contemporaries?

This may here be done, by a peruſal of their letters; of the letters which they really wrote, and not ſuch as are too often delivered down to us by hiſtorians, where the ſentiments, the ſtyle, and the language, are generally thoſe of the hiſtorian himſelf, and not of the perſon; few

real and original letters of remote times, being now in exiſtence.

Letters of remote ages afford pleaſure

Even the private letters of private men, who have lived in ages paſt, afford much pleaſure to a ſtudious and contemplative mind; we ſeem to ſee the man, to converſe with him, and in his familiar effuſions to penetrate his thoughts.

But when the private letters of great men, men of eminence in the ſtate, whoſe lives and actions fill the page of hiſtory, are preſerved and brought to light, how enthuſiaſtically do the antiquary and hiſtorian pore over their contents; and examine with eager curioſity the ſtyle, the language, and even the hand-writing; deducing, from all, inferences favourable to learning and hiſtory, in tracing the gleams of taſte and genius, in elucidating events already imperfectly known, and in diſcovering others hitherto unknown.

to every reader:

Will not every reader receive greater pleaſure from the ſpeeches of princes, warriors, and ſtateſmen, in our great Shakſpeare's Drama, when he has ſeen their hand-writing, when he has peruſed their letters, when he has *only not* converſed with the men themſelves?

particularly to the antiquary and hiſtorian.

Will not the antiquary and hiſtorian become, in their own minds, almoſt contemporaries with York and Canterbury, Saliſbury and Warwick, Buckingham and Norfolk, Suffolk and Haſtings?

Dark period of hiſtory.

From the reign of king Stephen, there is no period ſo ſlightly illuſtrated by records, and authentic documents, as the turbulent and diſtracted years, which paſſed from

the

the latter part of Henry VIs'. reign, to the acceſſion of Henry VII. almoſt the only regiſters preſerved were written in characters of blood: battles and executions alone mark out to the hiſtorian his path, from one ſcene of confuſion to another; and his moſt truſty guide is the genealogiſt, who, recording the years in which ſuch or ſuch of the great nobility were beheaded, aſcertains the dates of the various revolutions.

Whatever, therefore, tends to throw a gleam of light on ſo clouded an horizon, muſt be a grateful preſent to thoſe, who would inveſtigate their country's ſtory; and when we have deſpaired of recovering any important documents of thoſe diſaſtrous times, the ſlighteſt relics of ſo obſcure a ſeaſon may ſeem almoſt as precious as the better preſerved remains of periods fully illuſtrated.

The blaſted ſtock of a tree, a heap of ſtones, is a welcome land-mark to a traveller, who ſearches for a road amidſt a level and dreary deſert.

Collection of private letters.

In a dearth of information, how grateful a treaſure muſt we eſteem a collection of private letters, written during the combuſtions occaſioned by the quarrels between the two Roſes!

Any confidential effuſions between relations and friends, in thoſe ſad and dangerous moments, when conveyance was difficult, when families were divided into different factions, and diſaffection to the triumphant party was perilous, were little likely to be hazarded, and leſs likely to be preſerved.

At

Civil wars from 1640 to 1660.

At a more recent æra of ſimilar complexion, though leſs ſanguinary (from 1640 to the Reſtoration), how few private letters have appeared; and conſequently how few have probably reached the preſent hour, when the taſte for hiſtoric anecdotes is awake, and would have invited publication!

Correſpondence dangerous in times of civil diſſenſions.

In the heat of civil diſcord, familiar correſpondence is undoubtedly circumſpect; and when hoſtile parties ravage the country, the moſt intimate friends are cautious of truſting their ſentiments to paper.

Charles himſelf, perhaps, added to the number of thoſe who were determined on his deſtruction, by the diſcovery of ſome intentions of his, truſted to a letter, which he ſent to the Queen in the moſt guarded manner, as he thought; but which fell into the hands of his enemies.

Civil wars between the two Roſes.

From a remoter and far more barbarous age, we could little expect to attain notices of public occurrences, or details of domeſtic life; and when we know ſo little of the interior of that great theatre, to which curioſity and intereſt are moſt attentive, the court; when the councils and meaſures of Henry VI. or rather of his courageous queen and her favourites, of Edward IV. and of Richard III. have been ſo imperfectly unravelled; was it probable that a large intercourſe between reſpectable perſons, not ill informed in that dark ſeaſon, ſhould have been treaſured up; and after ſo long an interval, be laid before the public?

Original Letters.

Such a valuable depoſit did actually exiſt, and is now preſented to the reader in the following pages.

Authenticity of them.

Every criterion of authenticity accompanies the original

ginal documents; no novel or ſuſpicious anecdote will ſtagger credulity; no new hypotheſis is to be eſtabliſhed, or even propoſed; no inveterate faith in received hiſtory is to be ſhaken; no eccentric genius is to appear, and call for admiration of talents, that exceeded his means of improving or diſplaying them.

The artleſs writers of theſe letters here communicate their private affairs, or relate the reports of the day; they tell their tale in the plain and uncouth phraſe of the time; they aim not at ſhining by art or eloquence, and beſpeak credit by total careleſſneſs of correction and ornament.

Sources of ſatisfaction to the reader.

The principal ſatisfaction of the reader will ariſe from two ſources. He will hear the events of the moment from perſons living at the time; and will ſee the manners and uſages of that age, painted in the moſt familiar language, undiſguiſed and unadorned.

The actors, as in Shakſpeare's hiſtoric plays, will be, by turns, the victorious prince, the martial peers, the defeated and ſacrificed miniſters, or perſons of inferior rank.

The meek and religious Henry, the reſtleſs Warwick, the loyal Beauforts, will attract attention, whether they become victorious or ſink in defeat; Edward himſelf will now force battle upon his foes, now haſten to his coronation, now poſt to the North to reſiſt new foes; and each letter, like a change of decoration, will preſent him in a different ſcene.

The politic Richard will take every bold meaſure to ſecure that crown, which, conſcience tells him, totters on his head.

We ſhall not learn many new exploits, but we ſhall ſeem to ſee theſe princes and their peers, acting the details of their own times; and though the details are ſometimes curſory and meager, it is a queſtion whether, being thus brought under the eye, they will not intereſt us more than the barren and doubtful narrations, which we already poſſeſs of thoſe reigns.

Henry VI. Henry VI. will here appear the mild and ductile image of a king; this day, guided by the active and undaunted ſpirit of his queen; to-morrow, acting under the direction of the haughty and ambitious Warwick.

Weak in mind and indolent in body, this prince might have been comfortable in the peaceful walk of private life; in the exalted rank of ſovereignty he muſt at all times have been miſerable; without a will, or even a wiſh, to act for himſelf, he lived a puppet, and he died a victim to the ambition of others.

Edward IV. Edward IV. as ſoon as proſperity and pleaſure had ſatisfied and enervated his ambition, ſunk into the arms of luxurious indolence; and his activity, as ſovereign magiſtrate, awaked only to rapid ſtarts of cruelty, as often as his repoſe was diſturbed by contradiction.

The purſuit of his right to the crown excepted, there was as little juſtice as mercy in his proceedings; the axe intimated his diſpleaſure, and his obdurate heart ſpared a brother no more than a Lancaſtrian; he married his wife becauſe ſhe would not be his miſtreſs; and took another man's wife for his miſtreſs, who was willing to be ſo.

Obliged to conquer his ſubjects before he could be their King,

King, he diſcovered neither ſpirit nor policy in dealing with foreign enemies; and yet, perhaps, there was more conſiſtence in his conduct than in that of moſt other heroes: Edward acquired becauſe he wiſhed to enjoy; had he ſucceeded peaceably to the crown, and could have enjoyed without acquiring, he perhaps would never have ſought to make an acquiſition.

He preferred being paid for his own tranquillity by Louis XI. to ſacrificing his tranquillity, his treaſure, and the blood of his people, in purſuit of glory, at the riſk of his repoſe: he did little for fame, and fame has done as little for him; the ſuperficial memorials of his vigour contained in the following ſheets, will therefore be the more acceptable.

We gain ſcarcely any freſh lights reſpecting the doubtful character of that ambitious prince Richard III. except that in his diſpute with his brother, Clarence was the aggreſſor. Richard III.

As ſovereign, his own proclamation, and the letters of his favourite Norfolk ſhew us, he was making every warlike preparation againſt his enemies, and ſtimulating his ſubjects to their loyalty by an appeal to them; we are, therefore, the more ſurpriſed to find that any ſuperſtitious regard to the feſtival of our Lady ſhould, for a moment, prevent his ſetting forward to meet the invader of his kingdom, or delay his perſonal attention to his military operations in a ſituation ſo critical.

However the ferocious policy of the times may palliate ſome of his actions, thoſe who think beſt of him, muſt ever condemn his cruel and illegal conduct in beheading Haſtyngs, Rivers, Vaughan, and Gray.

Had his path to the throne been ſtrait, he might have ſhone in hiſtory as a good prince; for he certainly underſtood the duty of a king better than his predeceſſor.

His genius was enterpriſing, and his temper liberal; if his conduct in the day of battle did not point him out as a conſummate general, it exhibited him as a courageous ſoldier; for when he found all was loſt, he ſought his competitor, and braved death by acts of heroiſm.

General remark.

The ſufferings of warriors, the diſtreſſes of private life, occaſioned by ſo tempeſtuous a ſeaſon, and the conciſe rapidity of the narratives, will preſent a truer picture of that turbulent period than could be exhibited by the artful pencil of a ſedate hiſtorian.

Reflections on our own bleſſings.

May we, who live in a time of national tranquillity, under a form of government defined and limited, with a prince upon the throne, whoſe public and private virtues claim every mark of our loyalty and reſpect, be truly ſenſible of our own happineſs!

May the preſent bleſſings which we experience, contraſted by the dreadful calamities pourtrayed in the diſtracted period of hiſtory here preſented to our view, make us humbly thankful to the great Diſpoſer of all human events, and inſpire us with ſuch a becoming moderation in the enjoyment of theſe bleſſings, that we may merit a continuance of them to ourſelves, and to our poſterity!

Authenticity of the letters.

It will now be neceſſary to ſatisfy the reader of the authenticity of the letters here laid before him, by preſenting

ſenting him with a pedigree of their deſcent, accompanied with ſuch obſervations as have ariſen in the mind of the editor, from an accurate examination of every one of them.

Theſe letters were moſt of them written by, or to particular perſons of the family of * Paſton, in Norfolk, (who lived in the reigns of Henry VI. Edward IV. and Richard III.) were carefully preſerved in that family for ſeveral deſcents, and were finally in the poſſeſſion of the earl of Yarmouth; they then became the property of that great collector and antiquary Peter † le Neve, eſquire, Norroy; from him they devolved to Mr. ‡ Martin, by his marriage with Mrs. le Neve, Pedigree of the letters.

* For an account of this family the reader is referred to the Pedigree.

† Peter le Neve, eſquire, a great collector and antiquary, was born 21ſt of January, 1661, made Rouge-croix purſuivant, 17th of January, 1689, Richmond herald 5th of April, 1704, and Norroy king of arms, the 25th of May following. He was the firſt preſident of the Antiquary Society, on its revival in the beginning of this century, which office he reſigned in 1724, and died on the 24th of September, 1729, æt. 86.

He inherited a conſiderable eſtate at Whitchingham, and other towns in the county of Norfolk, which, after his deceaſe, and a long and expenſive conteſt at law, was decreed by the houſe of lords to be the eſtate of John Norris, eſquire, whoſe grandfather had purchaſed the reverſion of a Le Neve.

‡ Thomas Martin, gent. of Palgrave, in Suffolk, was born at Thetford, on the 9th of March, 1696-7, was admitted a fellow of the Antiquary Society, in 1718, and died ſuddenly in his chair on the 7th of March, 1771, having very nearly completed his 74th year.

He may be ſaid to have been born an antiquary, for from his very infancy a fondneſs for antiquities commenced, and he became a collector of books, &c. &c. almoſt as ſoon as he could read.

In matters of antiquarian reſearch, his indefatigable and perſevering induſtry, aſſiſted by a ſtrong and retentive memory, overcame all difficulties, and, without the advantage of a learned education, he acquired a fund of knowledge, which,

Neve, and were a part of his collections purchaſed by Mr. * Worth, from whom in 1774 they came to the editor.

Paper. The † paper on which they are written, is of different degrees of fineneſs; ſome ſheets being rough, and, what we now call, very coarſe, while others are perfectly ſmooth, and of a much finer texture; theſe different ſorts, however, muſt have been all of foreign manufacture, ſince the art of paper-making was not introduced into England before the reign of Henry VII.

Paper marks. The ‡ paper marks are various, and are always expreſſed

though he did not turn it to his own pecuniary benefit, he very willingly and with great clearneſs communicated to any who applied to him for information in the various branches of antiquarian inveſtigation.

His collections were large and various, and what remained of them at his deceaſe, were ſold by his adminiſtratrix to Mr. Worth, for 630l.

* Mr. John Worth, an apothecary and chemiſt, at Diſs, in Norfolk, purchaſed Mr. Martin's collections, with an intention of arranging, and then ſelling them to the beſt advantage.

He was elected a fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in 1771, and, before he had completed the ſale of his collections, died ſuddenly, on the 8th of December, 1774.

† In a ſtanza of the Proeme to "Bartholomeus de Proprietatibus Rerum," printed by Wynken de Worde, about 1495, wherein he recalls John Caxton to our remembrance, is the following curious memorial of our firſt paper-maker:

"*And John Tate the yonger, Joye mote hem broke,*
"*Whiche late hathe in Englond doo make this paper thynne,*
"*That now, in our Englyſsh, this boke is prynted inne.*"

His paper mill is likewiſe recorded to have been in the town of Hartford, and the mark on his paper is a ſtar of eight points, or rays, within a double circle: it is engraved on plate XIII. N° 6.

‡ The paper marks are thoſe figures formed by wires, on the ſieve at the bottom of the mould in which the paper is made, and are impreſſed on it in its pulpy ſtate.

From theſe marks the different ſorts of modern paper are named, and the time and place of its manufacture aſcertained.

They are often called the water-marks.

as authenticating the age of the paper; and the reaſon why ſeveral of the letters have no paper mark, is the following: the portion uſed of a ſheet of paper was no more than what was required to contain the writing, as the paper is always cut off from the ſheet at the end of the letter; ſhort letters therefore are often without any paper mark, and others have it cut through, ſo that only a part of it remains on the letter.

Size of the paper.

The ſize of the whole ſheets of paper varies from ten to twelve inches in length, as the writing runs, and from about ſixteen to ſeventeen, or eighteen inches in depth.

Size of the letters.

The various ſizes of the letters themſelves, are from ten to twelve inches in length, to three, ſix, eight, ten, or twelve inches, or more in depth, according to the quantity of the matter written; and each letter has its ſize here ſpecified at the end of it, in inches and parts of inches.

Form, and faſtening of the letters.

Moſt of the letters have been neatly folded up in different ſhapes, from three to four inches in length, and from one and an half to three inches in breadth, having either a hole cut by a knife, and a piece of paper put through it; or threads drawn through by a needle, and brought under the ſeal, by which they were faſtened.

Seals.

Many of the ſeals are ſo far perfect as to diſcover the impreſſions of arms, creſts, letters, heads, or ſome other devices; all of which will be mentioned in the notes to the letters on which they appear; ſome of them have likewiſe a braid of ſtring, or ſtraw twiſted round the impreſſion, and fixed when the wax was warm. Such of the ſeals as

remain

remain perfect, or nearly ſo, are engraved on a plate by themſelves, of which a deſcription is annexed at the end of the work.

Hand-writing. The hand-writing in ſome of the letters is, though black and thick, very true and legible; in others, the decypher-ing of it has been attended with much trouble and diffi-culty.

Ink. The ink in general ſtands well, but where any dampneſs has reached it, is become yellow, and in ſome places the colour is quite gone.

Method purſued. The method obſerved, in preparing theſe letters for public inſpection, is the following.

Contractions, &c. conti-nued. The contractions, dialects, modes of ſpelling and point-ing, uſed in the original letters are exactly followed in the copy; and wherever capitals appear in the one, they are continued in the other.

Tranſcripts in modern orthogra-phy, &c. The thought of tranſcribing each letter, according to the rules of modern orthography and punctuation, aroſe from a hint which the editor received from an antiquary, reſpectable for his knowledge and publications; whoſe opinion was, that many would be induced to read theſe letters, for the ſake of the various matter they contain, for their ſtyle, and for their curioſity, who, not having paid attention to ancient modes of writing and abbreviations, would be deterred from attempting ſuch a taſk, by their uncouth appearance in their original garb.

Some readers perhaps may think, that a ſelect number only of the original letters, printed in their antique dreſs, would have ſufficed as ſpecimens to gratify the taſte of the antiquary.

antiquary. Let ſuch however conſider, that a faithful delineation of our language, during a period of almoſt half a century, in an age too, famous for little beſides its barbarity and civil diſſenſions, is a matter not only of much curioſity, but of ſome uſe; and though this method of printing the letters has been attended both with additional trouble and expence, yet it is hoped that the purchaſer will not think that too high a price has been ſet upon theſe volumes, as the editor aſſures him that if he be paid by the ſale for his trouble and expences attending the publication, he ſhall be ſatisfied.

In the tranſcribed letters, except in the ſpelling and pointing, as little alteration is made as was poſſible; the turn of expreſſion and phraſeology of the original, even where the grammar is defective, being preſerved. The editor is conſcious, however, that even in the tranſcribed letters a word will ſometimes be found in the old form, ariſing from that familiarity with the old language, which ſuffered it not only to eſcape his pen in writing, but likewiſe to paſs unnoticed in correcting the ſheets.

It ought to be remarked here, that in many places the ſenſe of the original appeared on the firſt reading defective, and ſeemed to require an inſertion of words to complete it; but, on a more attentive peruſal, and the proper placing of a ſtop, the ſeeming difficulty often vaniſhed, and, allowing for the mode of expreſſion then in uſe, the writer ſtands clear of any ambiguity.

The obſolete words are continued, but the ſenſe is expreſſed by modern words or phraſes, in Italics between crotchets. Obſolete words explained.

How

How well the editor has ſucceeded in this plan, he leaves to the judgment of antiquaries to determine; he can only aſſure his readers, that he has endeavoured to be as correct, as gloſſaries, dictionaries, &c. &c. would permit him.

Stops, &c.

The original letters are often without either ſtops or breaks; this confuſes the ſenſe, and renders it obſcure to many, particularly to thoſe who are not converſant in ancient writing; in the tranſcribed letters the editor has endeavoured to amend theſe defects.

Dates defective.

The dates are ſometimes, though ſeldom, fully expreſſed in the letters, except in ſome of thoſe of particular writers, as ſir John Faſtolf, and ſir John Paſton; the day of the month only, or the ſaint's name, to whom the day is dedicated, being generally all the date they have.

Endeavours uſed to aſcertain them.

The editor has taken ſome trouble to ſupply theſe defects, and to fix the exact dates of the letters from calendars, from ſome fact mentioned, or other *data* in the letters themſelves, and by theſe means to place the different letters in chronological order. In this, his ſucceſs has in a great meaſure anſwered his own expectations, and he hopes thoſe of his readers will not be diſappointed, ſince they may not be aware how much time and trouble the aſcertaining of the date of a ſingle letter has ſometimes coſt him.

Year commences on the 25th of March.

It is proper here to obſerve, that the date of the year is always ſuppoſed to commence on the 25th day of March; and that the full dates are always placed at the end of the tranſcribed letters; where, notwithſtanding all the endeavours of the editor, ſome ſtill remain uncertain as to the exact year, &c.

If

If any reader of this book ſhould be able to aſcertain theſe, or to correct any other miſtakes or inaccuracies, he will confer an obligation on the editor by communicating his remarks.

Spelling unſettled.

There appears to have been no general rule for ſpelling at this time; but it ſeems, as if ſound and the humour of the writer alone directed it.

In a letter of ſir John Paſton to his brother, dated 29th of September, 1471, 11 E. IV. (p. 80, vol. ii.) the word *ground* is ſpelt three different ways in the ſpace of two lines: "what hyght the arche is to the *gronde* off the ilde and "how hye the *grounde* off the qwyr is hyer then the *grownde* "of y^e^ ilde."

Neither do the ſpelling, the ſtyle, nor the pronunciation (if we may judge of that from the ſpelling) differ ſo much from thoſe of the preſent time, as might be reaſonably expected; and the ſpelling alone of thoſe letters, written by perſons who had been educated by the religious, or in the families of the great, would have given ſufficient reaſon for ſuſpicion, that the ingenious poems, publiſhed a few years ago under the name of Rowley, were ſpurious, if at this time any doubt remained concerning them.

Anecdotes before known.

Some of theſe letters may be thought to contain no anecdotes worth preſerving, or only ſuch as are already known; the latter it is acknowledged will be often the caſe; but then we ſhall become acquainted with the epiſtolary and familiar ſtyle of an age, of which no ſpecimens of this kind were known to exiſt; and from the contents often form a better judgment of the character and abilities

of the writer, than from any accounts our hiſtorians have given of him.

Different readers have different ſentiments.

The editor is likewiſe conſcious, though in many of the letters there may be a ſingle anecdote worthy of curioſity, yet that ſome readers may conſider the remainder as of no conſequence; this may ſometimes be the caſe with thoſe particular readers, when others from the ſame letter may receive ſuch information relative to the manners, &c. of the times, as will not only pleaſe, but ſatisfy them.

National manners.

Others of theſe letters, containing no particular ſtate anecdotes, may by many be conſidered as not of ſufficient conſequence for publication; the editor however will hope that theſe very letters may have their value, as containing ſome traces of national manners, more characteriſtic of this unenlightened period than pages of hiſtorical declamation.

Some of them are inſerted as differing in ſtyle, in ſpelling, &c. from others of the ſame reign; and many of them will give us a better opinion of the mode of education then practiſed than we have been taught to conceive, or are willing to allow.

Editor's difficulty.

The editor has ſometimes found great difficulty in judging what letter or part of a letter to omit, when he has thought it of no conſequence, as being neither hiſtorical, nor delineating any feature of the times; conſidering, that though it might not appear to him to convey any information, yet that it might be uſeful to other antiquaries in their particular inveſtigations; when any letter or part of a letter, therefore, appears trifling to any particular reader, he hopes this conſideration will entitle him to indulgence.

The

The editor has likewiſe inſerted in this collection two pieces of poetry of theſe reigns; the firſt is a letter in verſe to Sir John Paſton (Letter * LXXVII. vol. ii. p. 234); the other a Poem addreſſed by a lady to an abſent nobleman, who had gained her affections (Appendix, VII. vol. ii. p. 304); neither of which is given as having either matter or information of much conſequence, but merely as a ſpecimen of epiſtolary poetry; each however has ſome merit, and deſerves a place in a work of this kind. Specimens of poetry.

Wherever the accounts in theſe letters agree with our hiſtory, they confirm the truth of it; where they differ, they certainly give the report of the time; and if the relater be, either from his ſituation or connections, likely to have authentic intelligence, deſerve our credit; how far they ſhall command it, every reader is left to judge for himſelf. Hiſtorical information.

They contain many private anecdotes of perſons, places, and things, then perhaps beneath the dignity of hiſtory to tranſmit to poſterity, as common occurrences of the times; but which will probably gratify the taſte which at preſent prevails for every information concerning the tranſactions of former ages. Private anecdotes.

Scenes of private life, accounts of private perſons, and what the cuſtoms of the age then made familiar, are now become, by the lapſe of time, matters of curioſity, and claim our attention.

The letters of the nobles are generally written by their ſecretaries, and each ſigned only by the peer himſelf, though in ſeveral the concluſion, and a ſentence or two at the end, are added by the pen of the nobleman. Noblemen's letters written by ſecretaries;

who were perſons of education.

The ſpelling and ſtyle of theſe letters vary ſtill leſs from the modern than thoſe of others of the ſame period; from which we may conclude, that theſe ſecretaries were perſons of education, trained up in the families of the great, or brought up by the churchmen; many of them doubtleſs being churchmen themſelves, or belonging to ſome religious ſociety.

The hand-writing likewiſe of theſe ſecretaries is generally fair and good.

Authorities reſpecting the notes omitted, and why.

Perhaps ſome of the readers of this book may object to the omiſſion of authorities, reſpecting the notes which are given to the letters.

The editor acknowledges the omiſſion; but as he ſuppoſes that moſt of thoſe, who read his book, are already converſant in the Hiſtory of England; the conſtant reference to Hollingſhed, Stowe, Speed, Rapin, &c. &c. to ſuch, would be diſguſting, eſpecially as the notes contain chiefly matters of fact, neceſſary to explain the text; but, when hinted, familiar to every perſon who has made hiſtory his ſtudy. The ſame reaſon will acquit the editor to the genealogiſt, reſpecting births, marriages, and deaths.

But where at any time he has had occaſion to differ, either from the hiſtorian or genealogiſt, he has quoted his author, &c.

Notes, &c. ſhort.

The editor could eaſily have both multiplied and lengthened his notes, if he had ſuppoſed it would have been acceptable; but, as he wiſhed in matters of doubt to leave the ſolution to the judgment of his readers rather than obtrude his own opinion, he has often been cautious of advancing it;

it; and has therefore made his obſervations as conciſe as poſſible, his intention conſtantly being, only to remind the antiquary and hiſtorian as to the fact, perſon, &c. and to ſhew thoſe who are not ſo well verſed in hiſtorical reading, that ſuch tranſactions have happened, and that ſuch perſons have lived, &c. by which means, if they have any curioſity for farther information, they may ſatisfy it by recurring to our beſt hiſtorians.

The notes ſometimes mention the ſame perſon more than once, but, as they are generally very ſhort, this was thought better than referring the reader from page to page, and from letter to letter.

Paſton pedigree.

The pedigree of the Paſton family will exhibit ſuch an account of the ſeveral perſons, who are either the writers, or the receivers, &c. of any of the letters here inſerted, that a reference to that will always ſhew the connections of the particular perſon, of whom any information may be required.

Blomefield's Norfolk.

And if the reader be deſirous of obtaining fuller accounts, than what are here given, of ſuch perſons mentioned in the following work, as are deſcended from families which have flouriſhed in the county of Norfolk, he is referred to "Blomefield's Eſſay towards a Topographical Hiſtory of the county of Norfolk," in five volumes folio.

Autographs, paper-marks, and ſeals engraved.

The editor hopes that the care and expence employed in having all the autographs, * paper-marks, and ſeals engraved, will be more than compenſated by the ſatisfaction

* The engraving and deſcribing of the paper-marks may be a means of aſcertaining the dates of many old writings, by comparing the marks on the paper with thoſe here given.

the reader will receive, from viewing an exact *fac ſimile* of the various hand-writings of the different perſons, whoſe correſpondence forms the enſuing volumes, and from ſeeing not only the marks which authenticate the age of the paper on which the letters are written, but likewiſe the ſeals of the writers themſelves.

References to find them. The autographs, paper-marks, and ſeals, are to be found wherever mentioned throughout the book, by examining the plate and number referred to in the notes, &c.

Liſt. A liſt of the plates and numbers, referring back to the ſeveral letters, whoſe autographs and paper-marks are engraved, is likewiſe added.

Catalogue. This liſt is preceded by a catalogue, wherein all the letters, with their dates, autographs, and paper-marks are chronologically arranged.

Arabic figures. Points. On Plate VI. N° 31, the editor has given a ſpecimen of the Arabic figures then in uſe; and likewiſe at N° 32, the points or ſtops which are in many of the different letters ſometimes uſed, though with no great preciſion; the firſt is uſed as a comma; the ſecond and third for a longer pauſe; and the other four, by different writers, as periods.

Editor's apology. The reader is deſired to keep in mind the diſadvantages ariſing to the editor from his diſtance, not only from the public libraries of this kingdom, but likewiſe from any conſiderable private collection of books. His reſearches have been confined almoſt entirely to ſuch books and MSS. as his own library has furniſhed him with; had he reſided in a place, where acceſs to the well furniſhed ſhelves of either public ſocieties, or private collectors had been within

his reach, he could moſt undoubtedly have illuſtrated ſome of the following letters more to his own ſatisfaction, and to that of his reader. He can however with truth affirm that no acquiſitions within his power have been neglected; and he is willing to hope, that though the antiquary and hiſtorian may doubt his abilities, they may ſtill commend that induſtry and application which he has uſed, in endeavouring to make theſe curious letters more worthy their inſpection.

Having now given the reader every neceſſary information, it only remains for the editor to return thanks, in this public manner, for the aſſiſtance, which he has received from the honourable HORACE WALPOLE, the reverend ſir JOHN * CULLUM, bart. and EDWARD KING, eſq. men who are ſo well known in the world of literature, that their names (whenever they are permitted to be uſed) will ſtamp a value upon any work, which they may honour with their approbation. Thanks returned.

Should therefore theſe volumes, *thus honoured*, meet with any degree of public favour, the editor will think himſelf moſt amply repaid for the care and attention, which he has cheerfully employed in preparing them for the preſs. Concluſion.

* The editor ſincerely laments that theſe thanks now remain only as a teſtimony of reſpect, to the memory of his late learned and ingenious friend, who died on Sunday the 9th day of October, 1785. Æt. 53.

DIRECTIONS to the BINDER.

VOL. I.

Henry VI. Frontiſpiece to Vol. I. to be placed before the Title Pages.
Plate of the Badges to front the Account of the Plates at page lxxvii.
Paſton Pedigree to be placed fronting Sheet B.

VOL. II.

Duke and Ducheſs of Burgundy, Frontiſpiece to Vol. II. to be placed before the Title Pages.

Plates I.—XIV. to be placed following
Plates XV. XVI. to be placed oppoſite
} each other at the end of the Volume.

ADVERTISEMENT

TO THE

SECOND EDITION.

The Editor's acknowledgment to the Public.

THE Editor wiſhes to be thought not inſenſible to the favour with which the Public has honoured his labours, and is happy to find, by the rapid ſale of the firſt edition of theſe Letters (the whole impreſſion having been diſpoſed of within the week of publication), ſuch a convincing proof of the taſte of the age for authentic documents of former times.

Aſſiſtance received.

He has the pleaſure to inform his reader, that ſince their firſt appearance, GEORGE STEEVENS, Eſq. the learned and ingenious Editor of Shakſpeare, has enriched them with ſeveral valuable notes, and has likewiſe pointed out many errors, which his accurate knowledge of our ancient language, cuſtoms, and manners enabled him not only to diſcover, but alſo to correct; of theſe notes and corrections, the Editor, by his permiſſion, has thankfully availed himſelf.

Continuation preparing for the preſs.

As this work has been ſo very favourably received, the Editor is preparing for the preſs, a further ſelection of Letters and Papers, written during the reigns of Henry VI. Edward IV. and Richard III. to which he intends adding ſuch as are in his poſſeſſion, which were written in the reign of Henry VII. And as the ſame care and attention

will be employed in the continuation, as have been already exerted in the preſent volumes, he flatters himſelf that the expectations of the inquiſitive ſearcher into the uſages of former ages, will not be diſappointed.

Original MS. Letters exhibited.

It may not be improper juſt to mention, that the **Original Manuſcript Letters** were, immediately after the publication of the firſt edition, depoſited for ſome time in the Library of the Society of Antiquaries, for the general inſpection and examination of the Members of that, and of the Royal Society.

Eaſt Dereham,
23d March, 1787.

J. F.

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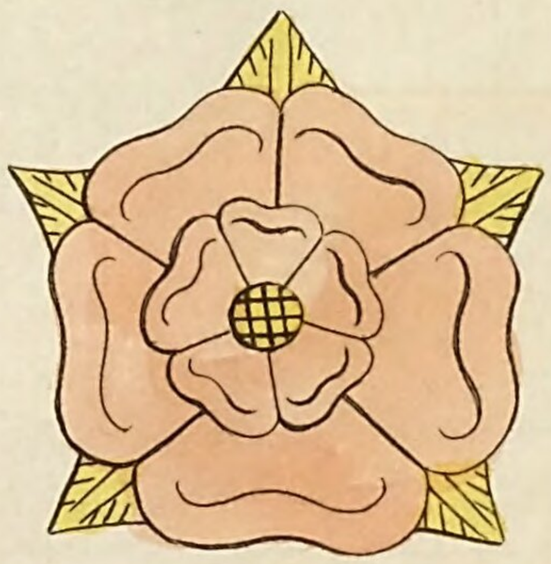
LETTER VIII.

Margaret, counteſs of Oxynford, to John Paſton, ſheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk.

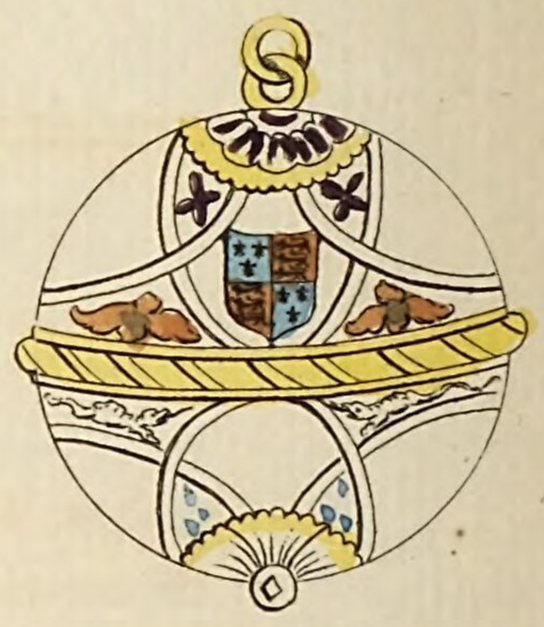
19th of May, 1486.

Requires him to uſe all his endeavours to apprehend Francis, late lord Lovell, if he ſhould attempt to go abroad from the coaſt of Norfolk, or get into ſanctuary.—Informs him how agreeable it would be to the king to have him ſecured, &c. - - - 338

1



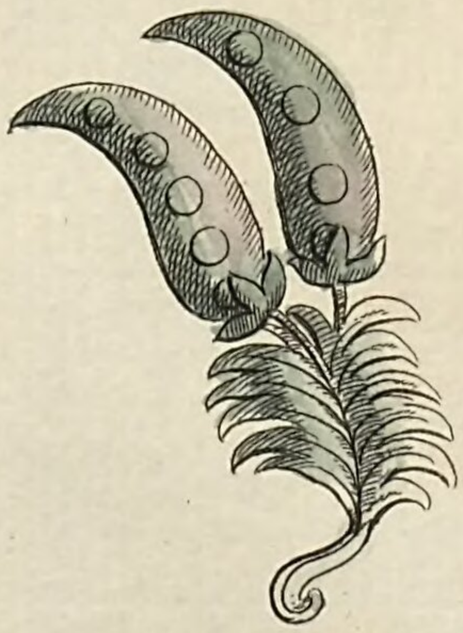
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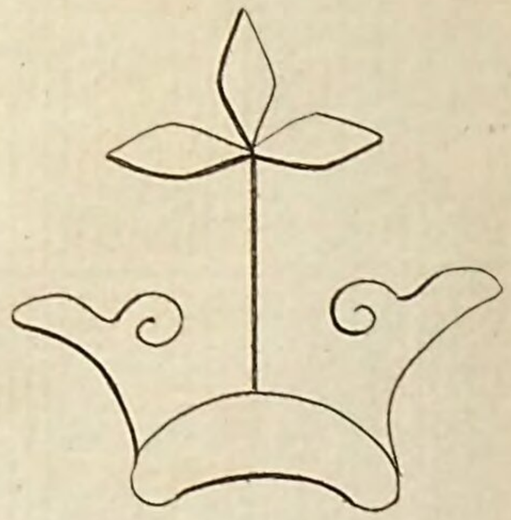
3



4



5



BADGES *of the Houſe of* LANCASTER.

1. Red Roſe. 2. Mound. 3. Feather & Scroll.

4. Broom Pod. 5. Paper Mark.

ACCOUNT of the PLATES.

AS a work of this kind is made intereſting, not only by ſhewing the manners of the times, but likewiſe by preſerving the features of particular perſonages, the editor has preſented the reader with a portrait of king Henry VI. from an original drawing, as a frontiſpiece to the firſt volume. And for a ſimilar ornament to the ſecond, he has been favoured with a delineation, by John Charles Brooke, eſq. from a painted window in the choir of the Dominican church, at St. Omer's, in the province of Artois, in the French Netherlands, repreſenting Charles, duke of Burgundy, and Margaret, his Ducheſs, which he has alſo had engraved for the reader's ſatisfaction.

Henry VI.

Duke and ducheſs of Burgundy.

The accounts hereafter given of each of theſe, the editor hopes, will not prove unintereſting to the antiquary.

The badges of the Houſe of Lancaſter are likewiſe engraved from original drawings, and accompany the plate of the king.

Lancaſtrian badges.

The ſmall engraving on the title page repreſents the preſent venerable remains of the principal tower of the caſtellated manſion at Caiſter, near Yarmouth, in Norfolk, the chief reſiding place of ſir John Faſtolf, knight, ſo often mentioned in theſe letters, and which, tradition ſays, was finiſhed by him with a part of the money which he received for the * ranſom of John,

Caiſter Tower.

* For an account of this ranſom, ſee Letter XXVIII. vol. i. p. 122.

duke

duke of Alençon, whom he took priſoner at the battle of Verneuil, in 1424.

Arms. The armorial bearings there given, are thoſe of the editor.

For this drawing the editor is particularly obliged to Francis Groſe, eſq.

Autographs. The plates numbered from I to VII. contain fac ſimiles of the names, titles, &c. of the different writers of the letters contained in this work; and thoſe from VIII to XIII. preſent

Paper-marks. exact figures of the paper-marks worked into the paper on which the original letters are written.

Seals. The XIVth plate repreſents ſuch of the ſeals with their devices as now remain on the letters themſelves.

Fac Similes. The XVth plate preſents the reader with a fac ſimile of part of a letter written by that great ſtateſman Richard Nevile, earl of Saliſbury.

And with a fac ſimile of a whole letter of the hand-writing of Elizabeth, ducheſs of Suffolk, ſiſter of our kings Edward IV. and Richard III.

The XVIth plate ſhews the back part of the ſame letter, with the direction, memorandum, marks, ſeal, &c.

And on it is likewiſe engraved the fac ſimile concluſion of a letter written by William Lord Haſtyngs, Lord Chamberlain to Edward IV.

FRONTISPIECE TO VOL. I.

An ORIGINAL PORTRAIT of King HENRY VI.

Deſcription of the frontiſpiece.

THIS figure kneeling, having a chalice in his right, and the cover of it in his left hand, dreſſed in rich robes, with the collar of the order of the garter, exhibits to us a curious reſemblance of king Henry VI.

The countenance and poſture are characteriſtic of that unfortunate prince, eſpecially after the time of his depoſition, between 1460 and 1470; the apparent age too agrees, he being then between forty and fifty years old.

The drawing is executed with ſpirit, and coloured; and the colours of the drapery are likewiſe written, as drap d'or, &c.

It was (when it came into the editor's poſſeſſion) paſted upon a ſheet of paper, containing many ancient devices of the Houſes of York and Lancaſter, and of ſeveral of the nobles and knights who were engaged in their intereſts.

Theſe drawings, writing, and paper, were of the time of Henry VI. or Edward IV. between 1450 and 1470; this portrait therefore was either taken from a painting done in king Henry's life-time, during his depoſition and impriſonment in the Tower, or it might be an original ſketch for a picture, or vidimus for a glaſs-painter.

Mound and badges.

On the ſame paper, with the drawing of the king, was the mound or globe; and on the paper, upon which the drawing was paſted, were the badges (ſee the plate) of the Houſe of Lancaſter, namely, the red roſe; the feather and ſcroll, with the Motto Ich deue; and the Broom-pod.

The paper, on which the portrait was drawn, had no paper-mark remaining, being only part of a ſheet, and that likewiſe torn; but that on which the badges, &c. were drawn, had a coronet for a paper-mark.

See Badge Plate, N° 5.

N. B. The ſame paper-mark is upon ſeveral leaves of a MS. account-book of ſir John Howard, who was afterwards the firſt duke of Norfolk of that name; the original writing on which is dated 10th of Auguſt, 1463, 3 E. IV. and at pages 31, 34, 38, 47, and 50.

This confirms the date of the badges, &c.

The drawing.

The drawing of the king is in its original ſtate, as to colours, &c. but cut from the paper, various parts of which were chafed, dirty, and torn; the portrait however remained perfect, except a ſmall portion of the robe behind, which the engraver has ſupplied.

Likeneſs.

It is worthy of remark, that the countenance of this prince, in the plate in Mr. Walpole's "Anecdotes of Painting," reſenting his marriage, greatly reſembles that here given to him, the difference of his age being conſidered.

Henry

Henry VI. was born in 1421; became king in 1422; was conſpired againſt by the Houſe of York, in 1450; depoſed in 1460; reſtored in 1470; depoſed again, and murdered in 1471. Æt. 50.

In the drawing, the hair of the king is repreſented of a yellowiſh brown colour, his robe is crimſon, bordered with gold lace, and the upper garment is of cloth of gold, doubled down with ermine.

FRONTISPIECE TO Vol. II.

CHARLES, Duke of BURGUNDY.

MARGARET, Ducheſs of BURGUNDY.

THIS repreſentation of a moſt beautiful painting on glaſs, in a north window of the choir of the Dominican church, in the ſtreet of the Commandant at St. Omer's, was drawn by John Charles Brooke, eſq. Somerſet Herald, on a tour which he made through Flanders, in the ſummer of the year 1780; and as no memorial of a ſimilar nature remains of theſe perſonages in this kingdom, he has, in the moſt friendly manner, permitted the editor of this work to have an engraving taken from his delineation, leſt time or any other accident ſhould deſtroy ſo beautiful a picture, compoſed of ſuch frail materials. Deſcription of the frontiſpiece.

The painting repreſents Charles, duke of Burgundy, and Margaret Plantagenet, his ducheſs, ſiſter of our kings Edward IV. and Richard III.

This prince was the laſt duke of Burgundy, of the Houſe of France, and was ſon of Philip the Good, Duke of Burgundy, by Iſabella of Portugal. Charles duke of Burgundy.

He was born at Dijon, in 1433, and had the ſirnames of the Bold, the Warrior, and the Raſh.

He greatly aſſiſted king Edward IV. his brother in law, when driven out of England by Henry VI. in 1470, and being diſmounted from his horſe, was ſlain in battle, before the city of Nancy, in Lorraine, on the 5th of January, 1477, aged 44 years.

This duke was firſt buried in St. George's church, in that city, but afterwards, in the year 1533, the emperor Charles V. his great grandſon and heir, cauſed his body to be removed from thence to the church of Notre-Dame, at Bruges, and had it there depoſited before the high altar, in the tomb of Mary of Burgundy, his only daughter, where a moſt beautiful monument is erected over him, having his effigies cumbent, of copper richly chaſed and gilt, in armour, and the mantle of the golden fleece, a broken ſpear being repreſented in his right breaſt, denoting the manner of his death; and on each ſide of the tomb are genealogical trees of chaſed copper gilt, hung with eſcutcheons enamelled, ſhewing his various royal alliances.

Mary, his only child, was married to the emperor * Maximilian, and carried all the inheritance of the Netherlands to the Houſe of Auſtria; ſhe lies near him, in a tomb ſimilarly ornamented, and equally elegant; both theſe monuments were repaired by the late empreſs queen in the year 1755, at the expence of 12,000 Florins, and are kept covered, except on high feſtivals; nor are they ever ſhewn to ſtrangers, but by a particular order from the ſtates of Bruges.

* See Letter LXXXI. vol. ii. p. 254.

Margaret,

Margaret, ducheſs of Burgundy, was a lady of ſuch extraordinary note in the annals of her time, that any memorial concerning her is worth preſerving. Margaret, ducheſs of Burgundy.

She was the third daughter of the unfortunate Richard Plantagenet, duke of York, ſlain at the battle of Wakefield, in 1460, in his attempt to wreſt the crown from the Houſe of Lancaſter, by Cecily his wife, youngeſt daughter of Ralph Nevile, earl of Weſtmoreland, and was * married to the duke of Burgundy, in the city of Damme, by the biſhop of Saliſbury, on the 3d of July, 1468, in the 8th year of the reign of her brother king Edward IV. being his third wife; but by him ſhe had no iſſue.

She ſurvived her huſband many years, and poſſeſſed ſuch power and influence in the Low Countries, then the ſeat of trade, and the richeſt provinces in Europe, as enabled her to give great aſſiſtance to her own family, the Houſe of York, in their oppoſition to the Lancaſtrian party.

She is ſaid to have been the chief contriver of thoſe two counterfeit Plantagenets, Perkin Warbeck and Lambert Simnel, who repreſented her Nephews; and ſhe ſo diſquieted the government of England during her whole life, in the reign of Henry VII. that the king's friends were wont to call her Juno, ſhe being to that prince as ſevere an enemy as that goddeſs was to Æneas, moving heaven and earth againſt him.

* See a curious account of this marriage in Letter XXIII. vol. ii. p. 2.

In

In the year 1500, ſhe was godmother to the emperor Charles V. and gave him at the font that name, in memory of her huſband, Charles, duke of Burgundy, his great grandfather.

She died at Mechlin, in the year 1503, and was interred in the church of the Cordeliers, in that city.

This princeſs was a great benefactreſs to various religious houſes in her dominions, of which ſundry memorials remain in the Netherlands.

On the North ſide of the little cloiſter of the Carthuſian monaſtery, at Longueneſs, in Artois, are her arms in a lozenge, as a dowager, ſupported by an angel kneeling, and underneath is this inſcription, in ancient characters.

Treſhaulte Dame et fort bien renomee,
Des Bourgoignoe treſpuiſſante Ducesſe,
Marguerite d'York jadis nomee,
Treſvertueuſe et plaine de ſageſſe,
Fit pluſeurs biens deſployant ſa riceſſe,
En ce ſaint lieu treſdigne et venerable,
Dieu eternal pour ſa noble largeſſe,
Luy doint ſon regne en gloire pardurable.

On the painting here copied, Charles and Margaret are repreſented praying at a table covered with cloth of gold, under a rich pavilion, hung with a cloth of ſtate, of gold lined with purple; he in armour, with a ruff and tabard of his arms. She in a mantle of hers, lined and turned up with ermine.

Arms.

The

The arms on his tabard are quarterly, of four; 1ſt and 4th, Burgundy modern, azure, ſemeé of fleurs de lys, or within a bordure, gobony argent and gules; 2d and 3d, Burgundy ancient, bendy of ſix, or and azure, a bordure gules, impaling Brabant; ſable, a lion rampant or. Thoſe ſeen on her mantle are the arms of France and England quarterly, 1ſt and 4th, azure three fleurs de lys, or; 2d and 3d, gules, three lions paſſant guardant, or, being the royal arms of England, without the diſtinction which was given to the deſcendants of the Houſe of York, as a younger branch of the Plantagenet line, viz. over the ſhield a label of three points, each charged with as many torteaux.

The ſame coat without this difference appears on her ſeals, engraved in Uredius's Sigilla Flandriæ, and wherever elſe repreſented in the Netherlands, denoting the right this princeſs ſuppoſed her family ſtill had to the crown of England, though her father never attained it.

THE following pedigree of the ancient and noble family of Paſton, is carried up no higher than to the father of ſir William Paſton, the judge, though, in the family pedigree, the line is continued for ſeveral preceding generations. It is brought down to the deceaſe of the laſt earl of Yarmouth, to ſhew the deſcent of the letters in that family.

Very few collateral branches are here taken notice of, except ſuch as related to perſons who were either the writers, the receivers, or whoſe names are mentioned in the contents of the letters; by this means the editor hopes that the reader will become ſufficiently acquainted with every perſon of this family, who was concerned in the following correſpondence, without being confuſed by a multiplicity of names, alliances, &c.

A PEDIGREE of the FAMILY of PASTON, of NORFOLK.

N. B. The Perſons in this Pedigree having any Letters in this Collection, either written by, or addreſſed to them, are diſtinguiſhed by theſe Marks, † Letters written by. * Letters addreſſed to.

Clement Paſton, of Paſton, died 1419. Buried at Paſton. = Beatrice, daughter of John de Somerton, died before 1419. Buried at Paſton.

* Sir William Paſton, Kt. born 1378. = † Agnes, daughter and coheir of Sir Edmund Berry, of Harlingbury Hall, in Therfield, Herts, by Alice, daughter and heir of Sir Thomas Gerbridge. Died 1479. Both ſhe and Sir William are buried at Norwich cathedral, in Our Lady's Chapel. She was a good wife, and a careful mother.

Brought up to the law, and became a judge of the Common Pleas. His will is dated 20 June, 1443, and he died 13 Auguſt, 1444, aged 66. He was called the Good Judge.

*John Paſton, Eſq. born 1420. Married before 1440, when he ſtudied the law in the Inner Temple. He was one of the executors of the will of Sir John Faſtolf, to which his couſin Hugh Fenn was ſupervisor. His eſtates were ſeized by Edward IV. and he was committed to the Fleet juſt before his death, which happened in London on 26 May, 1466. He was buried very ſumptuouſly at Bromholm Priory in Norfolk.

The families of Faſtolf, Paſton, and Fenn, were not only nearly related to, but intimately connected with each other.

† * Margaret, daughter and heir of John Mauteby, Eſq. by Margaret, daughter of John Berney, Eſq. of Reedham. Her will is dated 4 Feb. 1481, and proved 18 Dec. 1484. She was buried at Mawteby. She appears to have been an active wife, and attentive to the intereſts of her family after ſhe became a widow.

Edmund Paſton, Eſq. born 1425. His will is dated 21 March 1448.

Walter Paſton.

† William Paſton had diſputes with his nephews concerning their eſtates, &c. His ſeal had the device of a fleur de lys. Pl. XIV. N° 4.

† Clement Paſton, born 1442. Was at London under the care of Maſter Grenefeld in 1457. He ſealed with the impreſſion of an eſcallop ſhell. Pl. XIV. N° 15.

Elizabeth Paſton = 1ſt Huſband, Robert Poynings. = 2d huſband, Sir Geo. Browne, Kt. of Beechworth Caſtle in Surrey.

born about 1429. She lived with lady Pole in 1457, and was alive in 1485.

† * Sir John Paſton, Kt. born about 1440. He took poſſeſſion of his father's eſtates by a warrant from Edward IV. dated 6 July 1466; was a brave ſoldier; performed many gallant actions in the French wars, and was the king's champion at Eltham. He died unmarried on 15 November, 1479, 19 Edw. IV. aged nearly 40 years, and was buried in London. He left a natural daughter, named Cuſtance. By his letters he appears to have been a ſenſible man, a dutiful ſon, and a kind brother. The impreſſion on his ſeal was, a fleur de lys in the centre, ſurrounded by nine others, each within a circle. Pl. XIV. N° 23.

† * John Paſton, Eſq. appears to have been brought up in the family of the duke of Norfolk; was a ſoldier, and engaged in the French wars. He attended the princeſs Margaret to Bruges in 1468; was heir to his brother in 1479, and in 1485 high ſheriff of Norfolk. He was knighted, and made a knight banneret at the battle of Stoke by Hen. VII. in 1487, and died in 1503. During his brother's life, the device on his ſeal was a fleur de lys, having an annulet on the dexter ſide. Pl. XIV. N° 22.

= * † Margery, daughter of Sir Thomas Brews, of Stinton Hall, in Sall, by Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Giles, and ſiſter and heir of Sir Gilbert Debenham. She was married in 1477, and dying in 1495, was buried in the White Friars in Norwich, where her huſband was afterwards interred. See her ſeal, Pl. XIV. N° 25. She ſeems to have been a woman of good ſenſe, well brought up, and of fair accompliſhments, ſuited to the age in which ſhe lived.

† William Paſton was at Eton in 1467.

Clement Paſton.

Walter Paſton took a degree, and died at Oxford in 1479.

* Edmund Paſton was in the garriſon at Calais in 1473. He was twice married, and died about 1504.

Anne Paſton = Wm. Yelverton, ſon of John, ſon of Sir William Yelverton, the judge.

Margery Paſton = Richard Calle

Chriſtopher Paſton, born 1478, and, I ſuppoſe, died in his infancy.

Sir William Paſton, Kt. = Bridget, daughter of Sir Henry Heydon of Baconſthorpe.

an eminent counſellor at law, born about 1479, or 1480, and died in 1554.

Eraſmus Paſton died = Mary, daughter of Sir Thomas Windham of Felbrigg, Kt. died in 1596, and was buried at Paſton.

during his father's life in 1538, and was buried at Paſton.

Clement Paſton, Eſq. a great ſea commander. He built Oxnead Hall, and dying in 1597, was buried at Oxnead.

Sir William Paſton, Kt. famous for his great hoſpitality, was born in 1528, died in 1610, aged 82, and was buried at North Walſham. He was heir to his uncle Clement Paſton. = Frances, Daughter of Sir Thomas Clere, of Stokeſby, Kt.

Chriſtopher Paſton, Eſq. born in 1554. Married in 1577. Adjudged an ideot in 1611. 9 Jac. I. When the jury found that he had been ſo from about 1587. = Anne, daughter of Philip Audley, Eſq. of Palgrave, near Swaffham.

Sir Edmund Paſton, Kt. born 1585. Married 1603. Died 1632, aged 48. Buried at Paſton. = Catharine, daughter of Sir Thomas Knevet, of Aſhwelthorpe, Knt. She died in 1628, and lies buried at Paſton, where a fine monument by Stone is erected, which coſt 340l.

Sir William Paſton, Bart. = Catharine, daughter of Robert Bertie, Earl of Lindſey, died 1636, and is buried at Oxnead, where there is an elegant mural monument with her buſt, &c.

an antiquary and collector, was high ſheriff of Norfolk in 1636, created a baronet in 1641, and dying in 1662 was buried at Paſton.

Robert Paſton, Earl of Yarmouth, &c. = Rebecca, daughter of Sir Jaſper Clayton, Kt. a citizen of London.

born 1631, created baron Paſton and viſcount Yarmouth 1673, and earl of Yarmouth in 1679. He was ſhot at in his coach in 1676; and dying in 1682, was buried at Oxnead.

William Paſton, Earl of Yarmouth, &c. encumbered his inheritance, and having ſurvived all his male iſſue, died in 1732, when his titles became extinct, leaving his eſtates to be ſold for the payment of his debts, &c. = 1ſt Wife, Lady Charlotte Boyle, alias Fitzroy, a natural daughter of Charles II. by Elizabeth viſcounteſs Shannon. She died in 1684. = 2d wife, Elizabeth daughter of Dudley lord North.

N. B. They were purchaſed by Lord Anſon, after his return from his voyage round the globe, and are now in the poſſeſſion of George Anſon, Eſq.

Charles lord Paſton, born 1673. Died unmarried.

William, born 1677. Died an infant.

William lord Paſton, born 1682, died unmarried.

Charlotte married Thos. Hyrne, Eſq. of Heverland.

Rebecca married Sir John Holland, of Quidenham, Bart.

ORIGINAL LETTERS.

HENRY VI.

1440 - - - - - - 1460.

18 - - - - - - 39 H. VI.

ORIGINAL LETTERS.

LETTER J.

To my worſhepefull housbond W. [1] *Paſton be yis lettr takyn.*

DERE housbond I recomaunde me to yow &c bleſſyd be God I ſende yow gode tydynggs of ye comyng and ye brynggyn hoom of ye [2] Gentylwomman yat ye wetyn of fro Redh'm yis ſame nyght acordyng to póyntmen yat ye made yer for yowr ſelf And as for ye furſte aqweytaunce be twhen John [3] Paſton and ye ſeyde Gentylwomman ſhe made hym Gentil cher in Gyntyl wyſe and ſeyde he was verrayly your ſon. And ſo I hope yer ſhall nede no gret trete be twyxe hym.

Ye p'ſon of Stocton toold me yif ye wolde byin her a Goune here moder wolde yeve ther to a godely ffurre ye goune nedyth for to be had and of colour it wolde be a godely blew or erlys a bryghte ſangueyn.

We are in this letter acquainted with the firſt introduction of a young Lady to the Gentleman, intended for her huſband, and are informed that ſhe "made hym gentil cher in gyntyl wiſe:" but it appears ſomewhat extraordinary, that being the Heireſs of a family of rank and fortune, any intimation ſhould be given to the father of the Lover of preſenting her with a Gown, and eſpecially as "ye Goune nedyth for to be had."

I prey

HENRY VI.

LETTER I.

To my Worſhipful Huſband William [1] *Paſton, be this Letter taken.*

DEAR Huſband, I recommend me to you, &c. Bleſſed be God I ſend you good tidings of the coming, and the bringing home, of the [2] Gentlewoman, that ye weeten [*know*] of from Reedham, this ſame night according to appointment, that ye made there for yourſelf.

And as for the firſt acquaintance between John [3] Paſton and the ſaid Gentlewoman, ſhe made him Gentle cheer in Gentle wiſe, and ſaid, he was verily your ſon; and ſo I hope there ſhall need no great Treaty between them.

The Parſon of Stockton told me, if ye would buy her a Gown, her mother would give thereto a goodly Fur; the Gown needeth for to be had; and of colour it would be a goodly blew, or elſe a bright ſanguine.

[1] Sir Wm. Paſton, knt. a judge of the Common-Pleas, was born in 1378, died in 1444. Æt. 66.

[2] Margaret, daughter and heir of John Mauteby, eſq. of Mauteby in Norfolk, by Margaret, daughter of John Berney, of Reedham, eſq. and ſoon after the writing of this letter, wife of John Paſton, eſq.

[3] Son of Sir William and Agnes Paſton, was born about 1420, and died in 1466.

I prey yow do byen for me ij [4] pypys of gold.
Your [5] ſtewes do weel. The holy Trinite have you in gov[r]nñce.
Wretyn at [6] Paſton in haſt ye wedneſday next aft[r] [7] Deus qui errantib; for defaute of a good ſecretarye.

Yowres [8] Agn. Paſton.

Size $11\frac{3}{4}$ by $3\frac{3}{4}$

4 Gold thread on pipes or rolls, for needle-work or embroidery, &c.
5 Ponds to keep fiſh alive for preſent uſe.
6 In Norfolk, the then reſiding place of ſir William Paſton.
7 The words beginning the Collect on the third Sunday after Eaſter.
8 Agnes, daughter and coheir of ſir Edmund Barry, or Berry, of Harlingbury-hall, in

LETTER JJ.

A mon tresreu'ent & treshoñable Maiſt[r] Ioh. Paſton ſoit done.

SAlvete &c Tytyngs the Duk of [1] Orlyawnce hath made his oath upon the Sacrement and uſyd it nev[r] for to bere armes ayenſt Englond in the p'ſence of the Kyng and all the Lordes except my Lord of [2] Glouc' and p'vyng my ſeyde Lord of Glouc' agreyd nev[r] to hys delyv'aunce qwan the maſſe be gan he toke hys barge &c.

This Letter gives us an account of the Ceremonies uſed, at the time the Duke of Orleans was releaſed, and of the Duke of Glouceſter's abſolute diſapprobation of this meaſure.

1 Charles, Duke of Orleans and Milan, was born in 1391, 14 R. II. and was taken Priſoner at the famous battle of Agincourt, fought on Friday the 25th of October, 1415, 3 H. V. where he was found under a heap of dead bodies almoſt lifeleſs; and had continued a priſoner till this time (1 Nov. 1440, 19 H. VI.), a ſpace of twenty-five years.

Henry V. on his death bed, had ordered that this duke ſhould not be releaſed, till a peace with France was concluded; and the duke of Glouceſter, not only now proteſted againſt his enlargement, but had his Proteſt recorded.

I pray you to buy for me two [4] pipes of gold. Your [5] ſtews do well. The Holy Trinity have you in governance.

Written at [6] Paſton in haſte the Wedneſday next after [7] "Deus qui errantibus;" for default of a good ſecretary, &c.

Yours [8] AGNES PASTON.

Paſton, Wedneſday,
about 1440, 18 H. VI.

in Hertfordſhire, by Alice, daughter and heir of ſir Thomas Garbridge, knt. and wife of ſir William Paſton, knt. She died in 1479, and was buried by her huſband, in Our Lady's Chapel at the eaſt end of Norwich cathedral. Pl. II. N° 19.

N. B. The reader is deſired to obſerve, that the Saxon þ is generally uſed, in all theſe original letters, for *th*, though here repreſented by the Engliſh y.

LETTER II.

To my right reverend, and right honourable Maſter, John Paſton, be this given.

SAlvete, &c. Tidings, the duke of [1] Orleans hath made his oath upon the ſacrament, and uſed it, never for to bear arms againſt England, in the preſence of the King, and all the Lords, except my Lord of [2] Glouceſter; and in proving my ſaid Lord of Glouceſter agreed never to his deliverance, when the Maſs began, he took his barge, &c.

This, however, availed nothing, for the Cardinal Biſhop of Wincheſter, Henry Beaufort, and his Party prevailed.

The duke of Orleance died in 1465, 5 E. IV.

[2] Humphrey Plantagenet, Duke of Glouceſter, youngeſt ſon of Henry IV. and Protector of Henry VI. was murdered at Bury St. Edmunds in 1446-7, by the contrivance of Queen Margaret and the duke of Suffolk, &c.

God

God yef grace the ſeide Lord of Orlyaunce be trewe for this ſame weke ſhall he to ward Fraunce.

Alſo Freynchmen and Pykardes a gret nowmbre kome to [3] Arfleet for to areſcuyd it and o[r] Lordes wyth here ſmal puſañce manly bytte them and pytte hem to flyte and blyſſyd be o[r] Lord have take the ſeide Cite of Arflet the qwych is a great Juell to all Englond and in eſp'all to o[r] cuntre.

Moreou' there is j kome in to Eñlond, a Knyght out of Spayne wyth a [4] Kercheff of Pleſūnce i wrapped aboute hys arme the qwych Knyght wyl renne a cours wyth a ſharpe ſpere for his ſou'eyn lady ſake qwom other S[r] Ric [5] Wodvyle or S[r] Xpofōre [6] Talbot ſhall del, u' to the wyrchip of Englond and of hem ſelff be Goddes grace.

Ferthermore ye be remembryd that an Eſquyer of Suff' callyd Joh Lyſton recou'yd in aff: no: dif: vij[c] m'rc in dam: ayenſt S[r] Rob Wyngfeld &c. in avoydyng of the payemēt of the ſeid vijC m'rc the ſeide S[t] Rob [7] Wyngfeld ſotylly hath [8] outlaywed the ſeide Joh Lyſton in Notyngham ſhir be the v'tue of qwch outlagar' all man' of chattell to the ſeide Joh Lyſton app'teynyng arn acruwyd on to the Kyng &c. And anon as the ſeide utlagar' was c'tyfyed my Lord Treſorer g'untyd the ſeid vijC m'rc to my Lord of [9] Norff' for the arrerag of hys ſowde qwyl he was in Scotland, and acordyng

[3] Harfleur, a port town in France, in the province of Normandy.

[4] A ſcarfe, or rich embroidered handkerchief, preſented him by his Sovereign Lady, and which, in honour of her, he wore tied upon his arm; ſuch ornaments were often worn by Knights at their tilting matches.

[5] Afterwards earl Rivers, and Father to Elizabeth, the Queen of Edward IV.—He was beheaded at Banbury, in 1469.

[6] Third Son of John, the famous Earl of Shrewſbury. He was ſlain in the battle of

God give grace the ſaid Lord of Orleans be true, for this ſame week ſhall he towards France.

Alſo Frenchmen and Picards a great number came to [3] Arfleet, for to have reſcued it; and our Lords with their ſmall puiſſance manly beat them, and put them to flight, and bleſſed be our Lord, have taken the ſaid City of Arfleet; the which is a great Jewel to all England, and eſpecially to our Country.

Moreover there is one come into England, a Knight out of Spain, with a [4] Kerchief of Pleſaunce enwrapped about his arm; the which Knight will run a Courſe with a ſharp ſpear for his Sovereign Lady's ſake, whom, either ſir Richard [5] Wodvile, or ſir Chriſtopher [6] Talbot, ſhall deliver to the worſhip of England, and of themſelves by God's grace.

Farthermore ye be remembered, that an Eſquire of Suffolk, called John Lyſton recovered in aſſize of novel diſſeiſin, ſeven hundred marks [466*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*] in Damages againſt ſir Robert Wingfield, &c. In avoiding of the payment of the ſaid 700 marks, the ſaid ſir Robert [7] Wingfield, ſubtlely hath [8] outlawed the ſaid John Lyſton in Nottinghamſhire, by the vertue of which Outlawry, all manner of chattel to the ſaid John Lyſton appertaining are accrued unto the king, &c. And anon [*as ſoon*] as the ſaid Outlawry was certified, my Lord Treaſurer granted the ſaid 700 marks to my Lord of [9] Norfolk, for the arrears of his ſowde [*pay*] whilſt he was in Scotland. And according to this aſſignment aforeſaid, Tallies *(were)* delivered, &c. And my lord of

of Northampton, in July, 1460, fighting for the houſe of Lancaſter.

7 The Wingfields were an ancient family ſeated at Wingfield Caſtle, and at Letheringham in Suffolk.

8 Referring to this Outlawry, on the back of the original Letter, in an ancient hand, is written, "a lewde practiſe in thoſe dayes."

9 John Mowbray.

Norfolk

dyng to this aſſignemēt forſeide taylles delyu'ed. And my Lord of Norff' hath releſyd the ſame vii C'm'rc to S^r Rob Wyngfeld.

And here is greet hevyng an ſhovyng be my Lord of [10] Suff and all his Counſell for to aſpye hough this mat' kam aboute &c. S^r I beſeche recom'nde me on to my maſt's yo^r modyr to my maſt's y^r wyff and to my maſt's yo^r Suſt' & omībus alijs quor' int'eſt &c.

S^r I pȳ you wyth all myn hert hold me excuſyd that I wryte thus homly and briefly on to you for truly conable ſpace ſuffycyd me nowt.

No more atte this tyme butte the Trynyte hawe you in p'teccon &c. and qwan yo^r leyſyr is reſorte ageyn on to yo^r college the Inner Temple for ther ben many qwych ſor deſyr yo^r p'ſence, Welles and othyr, &c.

Wretyn in le feſt de touts Seynts ent' Meſſe & Mateyns calamo feſtinant,' &c.

Yōs [11] Rob. Reppes.

11 ¾ by 5.

[10] William de la Pole, earl of Suffolk; he was afterwards duke of Suffolk, and beheaded at ſea, in 1450.

[11] The family of Repps flouriſhed from the Conqueſt, for many centuries, at Repps, &c. in Norfolk.—This writer is ſtyled in the pedigree Robert Repps, eſq. and married Margaret, daughter of ——. Pl. II. N^o 17.

Paper Mark.
A ſtrange Animal
with one Horn.
Plate VIII. N^o 1.

LET-

Norfolk hath releaſed the ſame 700 marks to ſir Robert Wingfield.

And here is great heaving and ſhoving by my Lord of [10] Suffolk and all his Counſel, for to eſpy how this matter came about, &c. Sir, I beſeech *(you)* recommend me unto my Miſtreſs your Mother, to my Miſtreſs your Wife, and to my Miſtreſs your Siſter, et omnibus alijs quorum intereſt, &c.

Sir, I pray you, with all my heart, hold me excuſed, that I write thus homely and briefly unto you, for truly convenable [*competent*] ſpace ſufficed me not.

No more, at this time, but the Trinity have you in protection, &c. and when your leiſure is, reſort again unto your college, the Inner Temple, for there be many which ſore deſire your preſence, Welles and others, &c.

Written on the Feaſt of All Saints, between Maſs and Matins calamo feſtinante, &c.

Yours, [11] ROBERT REPPS.

All-Saints-Day,
Tueſday, 1 Nov.
1440. 19 H. VI.

N. B. Several of theſe letters have a character, either at the beginning or before the name at the concluſion, which I apprehend ſignifies Jeſu Maria. This has it at the beginning. It is repreſented before T. Cant. Plate 1. No. 9; before J. Faſtolf, Pl. 11. No. 15; and more fully before Henry Berry, Pl. v. No. 19.

LETTER III.

To oure right truſti and welbelovid John Paſton ſquier.

The Duc of Norff'

TRuſti and right welbelovid we grete you weel, lating you witte that for the truſt that as weel we as the heires of Edmund Swathyng have unto you we have appointid you to be one of the makeres up indifferently of the evydences betwix us and the ſeide heires, wherfor we pray you hertily y^t^ ye wil yeve attendaunce at ſuch day and place as ye and our right truſti and welbelovid frende William [1] Yelv.'ton with oure welbelovid ſ^r^vaunt [2] Jenney ſhal mow attende to the making up of the ſeide evidencez, and we ſhal ſende ſūme of our ſ^r^vauntz to awayte upon you for yo^r^ reward and coſtis y^t^ ye ſhal be pleaſid w^t^ by the grace of God who have you eve^r^ in his keping.

Wreten undir our ſignet in oure Caſtel of fframlyngham the xviij. day of ——

11 by 5.

[3] John Mowbray, Norff.

This ſhort Letter at firſt ſight ſeems to convey nothing worthy notice, though, upon conſideration, we are ſtruck with the care and attention paid by the Duke to the Title Deeds of thoſe Eſtates which he purchaſed.

Three Gentlemen, two of them afterwards eminent Lawyers, were employed to ſettle the title and draw up the conveyance of an eſtate bought by the Duke of the Heirs of Swathing, who, we here ſee, were properly attended upon, and handſomely rewarded for their time and trouble.

The Title Deeds of the age were conciſe and clear, unincumbered with that *ſeeming tautology*, which the practice of modern times has *perhaps* made neceſſary.

[1] William Yelverton was created a Serjeant at Law in 1440, appointed a Juſtice of the King's Bench in 1444, and in 1460 made a Knight of the Bath.

[2] William Jenney was made a Serjeant at Law in 1464, and in 1478 a Juſtice of the King's Bench.

LET-

LETTER III.

To our right truſty and wellbeloved John Paſton, Eſquire.

The Duke of Norfolk.

TRUSTY and wellbeloved we greet you well; Letting you weet, that for the truſt, that as well we, as the Heirs of Edmund Swathing have unto you, we have appointed you to be one of the makers up indifferently of the Evidences betwixt us, and the ſaid Heirs; wherefore we pray you heartily, that ye will give attendance at ſuch day and place, as ye and our right truſty and wellbeloved William [1] Yelverton, with our wellbeloved Servant [2] Jenney ſhall mow [*be able to*] attend to the making up of the ſaid Evidences, and we ſhall ſend ſome of our Servants to await upon you, for your reward and coſts, that ye ſhall be pleaſed by the grace of God, who have you ever in his keeping.

Written under our Signet in our Caſtle of Framlingham the 18th day of ——

Framlingham
18 - -
Before 1444
23 H. VI.

[3] JOHN MOWBRAY, NORFOLK.

[3] John Mowbray Duke of Norfolk, ſucceeded his Father in 1435, and died in 1461. He married Ellenor, only Daughter of William Bourchier Earl of Ewe in Normandy.

The Signature of his name is ſingular and curious, the monogram before the word Norff', containing all the Letters of his Chriſtian and Surname. JOHN MOWBRAY. Pl. 1. N° 3.

The name of the month being written near the edge of the paper on the original Letter, is torn off

This Letter was moſt probably written before Yelverton was made a Judge, as the Duke would, in caſe he had then been ſo, have called him Juſtice, according to the cuſtom of the time

The Date of it will therefore be before 1444, 23 H. VI.

The ſignature only is of the Duke's hand writing.

LETTER JU.

To my worſchypful and reverent Lord John Vicont [1] Beaumont.

RYGTH worſchypfull and my reverent and moſt ſpeſiall Lord y recomaund me un to yowr good grace in the moſt humble and lowly wyſe that y canne or may deſyryng to her of your proſperite and well fare as to my moſt ſyngeler joy and ſpeſiall comfort. And gyf hyt plees your hygnes as towchyng the ſoden aventeur that fell latly at Coventre plees hyt your Lordſhyp to her that on [2] Corpus Xpi even laſt paſſed be twene viij and ix of the clok at afternon Syr Umfrey [3] Stafford had browth my mayſter Syr James of [4] Urmond towad hys yn from my Lady of [5] Shreweſbery and reterned from hym toward hys yn he met w[t] Syr Robert [6] Harcourt comyng from hys moder toward hys yn and paſſed Syr Umfrey, and Richard hys ſon came ſomewhat be hynd, and when they met to gyder they fell in handes togyder and Sir Robert ſmot hym a grette ſtoke on the hed w[t] hys ſord and Richard w[t] hys Dagger haſtely went

This Letter preſents us with the effects of a private diſpute, and gives us an inſtance of the dangerous, though common ferocity of theſe unſettled times; it muſt have been written between 1440 and 1450, as in the former year Lord Beaumont was created a Viſcount, and in the latter Sir Humphrey Stafford was killed.

[1] John Viſcount Beaumont, ſo created in Feb[y]. 1439-40, 18 H. VI. was the firſt of that title by patent in England; he was killed at the battle of Northampton, in July 1460, fighting for the Houſe of Lancaſter.

[2] The Thurſday after Trinity Sunday.

toward

LETTER IV.

To my worſhipful and reverend Lord, John Viſcount [1] Beaumont.

RIGHT worſhipful, and my reverend, and moſt ſpecial Lord, I recommend me unto your good Grace in the moſt humble and lowly wiſe, that I can or may, deſiring to hear of your proſperity and welfare, as to my moſt ſingular joy and ſpecial comfort.

And if it pleaſe your Highneſs, as touching the ſudden adventure that fell lately at Coventry, pleaſe it your Lordſhip to hear, that on [2] Corpus Chriſti even laſt paſſed, between 8 and 9 of the clock at afternoon, Sir Humphrey [3] Stafford had brought my maſter, Sir James of [4] Ormond, toward his Inn from my Lady of [5] Shrewſbury, and returned from him towards his Inn, he met with ſir Robert [6] Harcourt coming from his mother's towards his Inn, and paſſed Sir Humphrey; and Richard his ſon came ſomewhat behind, and when they met together, they fell in hands together, and Sir Robert ſmote him a great ſtroke on the head with his ſword, and Richard with his Dagger haſtily went toward him, and as he ſtumbled,

3 He was a collateral branch of the family of the Duke of Buckingham; and, in June 1450, commanded a Detachment of the royal army, ſent out againſt the Rebel Jack Cade; his Party fell into an Ambuſh, and he was killed.

4 Query, Whether James, ſon of the Earl of Ormond, who afterwards, in 1449, was created Earl of Wiltſhire.

5 Wife of John Talbot, the famous Earl of Shrewſbury.

6 He ſignaliſed himſelf in the wars of Henry VI. and Edward IV. was a knight of the Garter; and, in November 1470, 10 E. IV. was ſlain by the Staffords, perhaps in revenge for this murder of Richard Stafford.

one

toward hym and as he ſtombled on of Harcourts men ſmot hym in the bak w^t^ a knyfe men wotte not ho hytt was reddely, hys fader hard noys and rode toward hem and hys men ronne befor hym thyder ward and in the goyng downe of hys hors on he wotte not ho be hynd hym ſmot hym on the hede w^t^ a nege tole men know not w^t^ us w^t^ what wepone that he fell downe and hys ſon fell downe be fore hym as good as dede. And all thys was don as men ſey in a [7] Pater noſter wyle. And forth w^t^ Syr Umfrey Stafford men foloed after and ſlew ij men of Harcowrttus on Swynerton and Bradſhawe and mo ben hurt, Sum ben gonne and ſum ben in pryſon in the Jayll at Coventre. And before the Coroner of Coventre up on the ſygth of the bodyes ther ben endited as Prynſipall for the deth of Richard Stafford, Syr Robert Harcourt and the ij men that ben dede. And for the ij men of Harcourts that ben dede ther ben endited ij men of Syr Umfrey as Prynſipall. And as gytte ther hath ben no thyng fownden before the Juſtice of the Pees of Coventre of thys riot be caws the Shreffe of Warwyk ſhyre is dede and they may not ſytt in to the tyme ther be a new Shreve.

And all thys myſchef fell be cawſe of a nold debate that was be twene heme for takyng of a dyſtres as hyt is told.

And all mygthty Jhu preſerve yowr hye aſtat my ſpeſiall Lord and ſend yow long lyve and good hele.

Wryten

[7] Proverbially, a ſhort time; for our Foreſathers, who were to repeat a great number of Pater noſters at once, performed the buſineſs in a very expeditious manner.

In Langham's Garden of Health, printed in 1597, is the following ſentence, "For

"Ears

one of Harcourt's men ſmote him in the back with a knife; men wot [*know*] not who it was readily; his Father heard *(a)* noiſe, and rode toward them, and his men ran before him thitherward; and in the going down off his horſe, one, he wot not who, behind him ſmote him on the head with an edged tool, men know not with us, with what weapon, that he fell down, and his Son fell down before him as good as dead; and all this was done, as men ſay, in a [7] Pater noſter while.

And forthwith Sir Humphrey Stafford's men followed after, and ſlew two men of Harcourt's, one Swynerton and Bradſhawe, and more be hurt, ſome be gone, and ſome be in priſon in the jail at Coventry.

And before the Coroner of Coventry, upon the ſight of the Bodies, there be indited as Principals, for the death of Richard Stafford, Sir Robert Harcourt, and the two men that be dead; and for the two men of Harcourt's that be dead, there be indited two men of Sir Humphrey's as Principals; and as yet there hath been nothing found before the Juſtice of the Peace of Coventry of this riot, becauſe the Sheriff of Warwickſhire is dead, and they may not ſit unto the time there be a new Sheriff; and all this miſchief fell becauſe of an old debate that was between them, for taking of a Diſtreſs, as it is told.

And Almighty Jeſu preſerve your high Eſtate, my ſpecial Lord, and ſend you long Life and good health.

" Ears dull, quarter a red Onion downeright and boyle in the Oyle of Olive, while one " may ſay *three Pater noſters.*"

N. B. The words in the copy of the original Letter with Dots over them are imperfect in the original, the paper being chafed.

Wryten at Coventre on tewuſday next after Corpus Xpi day, &c.

Be yowr own pore

11 ½ by 8 ½.

Sʳvant,

John Northwod.

Paper Mark
A Bull's or Goat's Head.
Pl. VIII. N° 3.
Autograph.
Pl. II. N° 18.

LETTER U.

To the right worſhipful and with all myn herte right entirely belovid Brother the Viſcounte [1] *Beaumont.*

RIGHT worſhipful and wᵗ all myn herte right entierly beloved Brother I recomaunde me to you Thenking right herteli youre good Brotherhode for youre gode and gentill L'res the whiche it hath liked you to ſende unto me nowe late and like it you to knowe I pʼſeeve by the tenōr of the ſeid L're youre gode deſire of cʳtein Dubete that I owe unto you. In gode feith Brother it is ſo wᵗ me at this tyme I have but eaſy ſtuffe of money wʳinne me, for ſo meche as the ſeiſon of the yer

This Letter has no date of the year, but it muſt have been written after 1444, 23 H. VI. in which year the Earl of Stafford was created Duke of Buckingham, and moſt probably before the breaking out of the civil war, as the Duke makes no complaint of the Diſtreſſes of the times, but only mentions that ſeaſon of the year, as not ſo convenient for him to procure money.

The Sentiments contained in the Letter are thoſe of a juſt man, and a man of honour, wiſhing to diſcharge his Debt at the time appointed, and which as he could not do in money, he performs by ſending an Obligation which he had from another, upon which Lord Beaumont might receive his Demand.

The

Written at Coventry on Tuesday next after Corpus Christi day, &c.

By your own poor Servant
JOHN NORTHWOOD.

Coventry
Tuesday after Corpus Christi day
Between 1440 and 1450, 18 and 28 H. VI.

LETTER V.

To the right worshipful, and with all mine heart right entirely beloved Brother, the Viscount [1] Beaumont.

RIGHT worshipful, and with all mine heart right entirely beloved Brother, I recommend me to you, thanking right heartily your good Brotherhood, for your good and gentle Letters, the which it hath liked you to send unto me now late; and like it you to know, I perceive, by the Tenor of the said Letter, your good desire of certain Debt that I owe unto you.

In good faith, Brother, it is so with me at this time, that I have but easy stuff of money within me, for so much as the season

The Direction and Address of those Letters, which are written from one Knight of the Garter to another, shew us, that in this age they esteemed one another as Friends and Brethren united by that most noble order, whose Institution directs that the Knights Companions should be "Fellows and Brethren united in all Chances of Fortune, Copart-"ners both in Peace and War, assistant to one another in all serious and dangerous Trans-"actions, and through the whole course of their Lives, faithful and friendly one "towards another."

The Letter itself is written by the Duke's Secretary, but the Conclusion and Signature are by his own hand, and it is most probably the only Original Letter extant of this Great Peer.

yer is not yet growen ſo that I may not pleſe youre ſeid gode Brotherhode as God knoweth my wille and entent were to do and I had it.

Nev'theles and it like you I ſende you bi my Sonne Stafford an obligacion wherof of late tyme I have reſcevid part of the Dubete therinne comp'ſid, the reſidue of whiche I prai you to reſceve bi the ſeid obligacion and that I may have an acquitance y'of and to yeve credence unto my ſeid Sonne in ſuch thing as he ſhall ſay unto you' gode Brotherhode on my behalve.

Right worſhipfull and w^t^ all myn herte right entirely belovid Brother I beſeche the bliſſed Trinite p'ſ've you in Honōr and p'ſp'ite.

Writen at my Caſtell of Makeſtok the xvij day of Marche.

Yowre trew and feyfull broder

[1] Y. Bukingh'm.

11 ½ by 6.

Paper Mark.
A Bull's Head and Star.
Pl. VIII. N° 2.

LET-

[1] John Beaumont, was created Viſcount Beaumont, in 1439; 18 H. VI. being the firſt nobleman who bore that title by patent in England. He was a faithful adherent to the King, and was ſlain in the battle of Northampton, in July 1460.

[2] Humphrey Stafford, Earl of Stafford, &c. was created Duke of Buckingham, in 1444, 23 H. VI. His Mother was the Lady Anne, only Daughter of Thomas of Woodſtock, youngeſt ſon to Edward III. He was firm in the intereſt of his Sovereign, and loſt his life in the battle of Northampton, in July 1460, where he jointly commanded with the Duke of Somerſet.

His

of the year is not yet grown, ſo that I may not pleaſe your ſaid good Brotherhood, as God knoweth my will and intent were to do, and [*if*] I had it.

Neverthelefs and [*if*] it like you, I ſend you by my Son Stafford, an Obligation whereof, of late time, I have received part of the Debt therein compriſed; the reſidue of which I pray you to receive by the ſaid Obligation, and that I may have an acquitance thereof, and to give credence unto my ſaid Son in ſuch thing as he ſhall ſay unto your good Brotherhood on my behalf.

Right worſhipful, and with all mine heart right entirely beloved Brother, I beſeech the bleſſed Trinity, preſerve you in Honour and Proſperity.

Written at my Caſtle of Makeſtock, the 17th day of March.

Your true and faithful Brother,

[2] H. BUCKINGHAM.

Makeſtock Caſtle,
in Warwickſhire,
17th March.
Between 1444, and 1455; 23, and 3 H. VI.

His Son Stafford, mentioned in this Letter, was moſt probably Humphrey Earl of Stafford, who was wounded at the firſt battle of St. Albans, in 1455, and of which wounds he ſoon after died; if ſo, it undoubtedly aſcertains the date of this Letter to ſome period between 1444 and 1455.

The Signature is remarkable for having the initial B of the Title, included within the initial H, of the Chriſtian name. Pl. 1. N° 5.

LETTER UJ.

To my Rygbt Wurchepfull Coſyn John Paſton Eſquier.

RIGHT worchepful Coſyn I recomaunde me to yow thankyng yow as hertyly as I kan for my ſelff &c. and ſpecially for yat ye do ſo moche for Oure Ladyes Hous of Walſyngh'm which I truſt v'yly ye do the rather for y^e^ grete love yat ye deme I have yerto, for trewly if I be drawe to any worchep or wellfare and diſcharge of myn Enmyes daunger I aſcryve it unto Our Lady. Preyng yow y'fore yat ye woln ben as frendly to Oure Ladyes hous as I wote well ye have alwey ben, and in eſpecyall now yat I myght have of yow the report certeynly be your Lett^r^ of yat that Naunton your Coſyn informyd yow and told yow be mouthe of all mat's towchyng Oure Ladyes hous of Walſyngh'm.

For me thynkyth be yat I have herde be Oure Ladys preſt of Walſyngh'm if I underſtode weel yat mater yat it ſhuld do moch to the gode ſpede of the mater, and dought yow not our Lady ſhall quyte it yow and here poer P'our here aftyr as he may &c. Preying yow alſo Coſyn and avyſyng for the eaſe of us both and of

In 1440, William Yelverton, Son of John Yelverton, by Elizabeth, Daughter of Richard Read, and widow of Robert Clere, was appointed King's Serjeant, and in 1444, a Juſtice of the King's Bench, and in 1460 he was created a Knight of the Bath.

This Letter therefore was moſt probably written before 1460, as had it been written after that time, he would have ſigned himſelf Knight as well as Juſtice. Pl. 11. N^o^ 14.

LETTER VI.

To my right worſhipful Couſin, John Paſton, Eſquire.

RIGHT worſhipful Couſin, I recommend me to you, thanking you as heartily as I can for myſelf, &c. and eſpecially for that ye do ſo much for Our Lady's Houſe of Walſingham, which I truſt verily ye do the rather for the great Love that ye deem I have thereto; for truely if I be drawn to any worſhip or welfare, and diſcharge of mine Enemies' danger, I aſcribe it unto Our Lady.

Praying you therefore, that ye will be as friendly to Our Lady's Houſe as I wote [*know*] well ye have alway been, and in eſpecial now, that I might have of you the report certainly by your Letter of that, that Naunton your Couſin informed you, and told you by mouth of all matters touching Our Lady's Houſe of Walſingham; for methinketh by that I have heard by Our Lady's Prieſt of Walſingham, if I underſtood well that matter, that it ſhould be much to the good ſpeed of the matter, and doubt you not Our Lady ſhall quite [*requite*] it you, and her poor Prior hereafter as he may, &c.

Praying you alſo Couſin, and adviſing for the eaſe of us both, and

The Image of our Lady of Walſingham, in Norfolk, was in theſe days, and had been for ages, particularly reſorted to by all ranks of people, from the King to the Peaſant, by foreigners as well as natives; and was held in the higheſt veneration for the various miracles, &c. aſcribed to her.

We

of our frendes and of many other yat ye be at London be tymes y^is t^rme and if we ſpede well now, all well all y^is yere aftir for I knowe v^ryly y^r was nevyr made gret^r labour yanne ſhall be made now and yerfore I pray to Our Lady help us and her bliſſid Sone which have you in his holy kepyng.

Wreten at yo^ur poer place of Bayfeld on Sent Fraunces day in haſt.

Yo^r Coſyn,

12 by 4

William Yelverton, Juſtis.

LET-

We muſt not therefore wonder, in this enlightened age, that a Judge, bigotted to his religion, and the credulity of the times, ſhould aſcribe not only every fortunate event which befel him to the influence of our Lady of Walſingham, but likewiſe attribute his eſcape from every danger which had threatened him, to her protection.

This famous and wonder-working Image was however, in 1538, 30 H. VIII. brought to Chelſea, and there burnt.

Thomas

and of our Friends, and of many other, that ye be at London by times this term, and if we ſpeed well now, all well all this year after; for I know verily there was never made a greater labour than ſhall be made now, and therefore I pray to Our Lady, help us, and her Bleſſed Son, which have you in his holy keeping.

Written at your poor place of Bayfield, on Saint Francis's day, in haſte.

Your Couſin,

WILLIAM YELVERTON, Juſtice.

Bayfield,
in Norfolk,
St. Francis's Day,
4th October.
Between 1444, and 1460.

Thomas Hunt was Prior of Walſingham, from 1437, to 1474.
The impreſſion on the wax with which this Letter is ſealed is a Cinquefoil, having ſome motto, (which I cannot make out) round it.
There is a braid of twine about the Seal. Pl. xiv. N° 1.

LET-

LETTER UIJ.

To the right worſhipfull and myn eſp'iall maiſter John Paſton eſquyer in haſt be this deliv'ed.

AFTER al due recomendacōn like it you to wete yat ye day of yo^{r} [1] Aſſi'e is die Lune p'x poſt tres ſeptiānas ſ'ti Mich'is, whiche is on Moneday come vij nyght at whiche tyme I troſt ye wole be here or ellis can I do lytell or nought y^{re} inne.

As touchyng yo^{r} mater ageynſt Gunnore y^{t} dwelleth in lawe I havc ſpoken to [2] Lyttelton and comuned w^{t} hym y^{re} in but it is not yet ſpoke of atte barre.

Gunnore hath waged his lawe of yat he haa'de his day to wage it of, &c.

As touchyng yo^{r} iſſues at Wentworth ſute it is ij^{s} and it was retourned er I come here, my maiſt' Faſtolfs Councel taketh heed y'to, &c.

As for tydynges my Lord [3] Chaunceler is diſcharged in his ſtede is my Lord of Wyncheſtre.

And my Lord of [4] Shrewiſbury is Treſorer and Broun' of yo^{r} Inn is Undertreſorer if ye wold ſende to hym to g'unte you ye namyng

This Letter muſt have been written on the 18th of October, 1449, if the account of the Chancellorſhip in Godwin's Catalogue of the Biſhops may be depended upon.

Lawrence Booth too would not have been ſtyled only "Maiſter," if he then had had any higher title from his Preferments, which he ſoon after enjoyed, and yet the accounts of the nobility, &c. ſeem to bring it forwarder than the year 1449.

LETTER VII.

To the right worſhipful, and mine eſpecial Maſter, John Paſton, Eſquire, in haſte be this delivered.

AFTER all due recommendation, like it you to weet, that the day of your [1] Aſſiſe is die Lunæ proxime pōſt tres ſeptimanas Sancti Michaelis, which is on Monday come ſev'night, at which time I truſt ye will be here, or elſe can I do little or nothing therein.

As touching your matter againſt Gunnor, that dwelleth in law, I have ſpoken to [2] Lyttelton, and communed with him therein, but it is not yet ſpoken of at bar. Gunnor hath waged his law of that he had his day to wage it of, &c.

As touching your iſſues at Wentworth's ſuit it is 2ˢ and it was returned ere I came here; my Maſter Faſtolf's Counſel taketh heed thereto, &c.

As for tidings, my Lord [3] Chancellor is diſcharged, and in his ſtead is my Lord of Wincheſter. And my Lord of [4] Shrewſbury is Treaſurer. Brown of your Inn is Under Treaſurer, if ye would ſend to him to grant you the naming of the Eſcheatorſhip of

[1] This Law Buſineſs ſhews us that the Writer was a Lawyer. Pl. III. N° 28.

[2] He was in 1453 Serjeant, and in 1467 the famous Judge Lyttelton.

[3] John Stafford, Archbiſhop of Canterbury, was diſmiſſed from the Chancellorſhip, and William Waynfleet, Biſhop of Wincheſter, ſucceeded him on the 11th of October, 1449; but query, as our Hiſtorians differ.

[4] John Talbot.

namyng of theschetorſhip of Norff' &c. it wer weel do for it is told me he wold do moche for you.

Maiſt^r Lawrence [5] Bothe is P've Seall and it is ſeid y^t my Lord of [6] York hath be w^t ye Kyng and is dep'ted āgeyn in right good conceyt w^t ye Kyng but not in gret conceyt w^t ye Whene, and ſum men ſey ne hadde my Lord of [7] Buks not have letted it my Lord of York had be diſtreſſed in his dep'tyng.

On moneday laſt paſſed was a gret Affray at Coventre bytwene ye Duke of [8] Som^r's^t' men and ye Wechemen of ye toun and ij or iij men of the toun wer kylled y^re to gret diſt'bance of alle ye Lords there for ye larom belle was ronge and ye toun aroſe and wold have joup'dit to have diſtreſſed ye Duke of Som^r's' &c. ne had the Duke of Buks not have take a direccon y^r in.

Alſo it is ſeid ye Duke of Buks taketh right ſtraungely that bothe his brethren arn ſo ſodeynly diſcharged from ther Offices of Chauncellerie and Treſoryſhip and y^t among other cauſeth hym that his opynyon is contr'y to ye Whenes entent and many oy^r alſo as it is talked.

Itm ſum men ſeyn ye Counſeal is diſſolved and y^t ye Kyng is forth to Cheſter, &c. Alſo ſumme ſey yat many of ye Lords ſhall reſorte hiddir to London ageynſt [9] Alhalwen tyde.

And as touchyng thel'con of Shirefs men wene y^t my Lord of Canterbury ſhall have a gret rule and ſpecyall in our countre.

[5] Was Maſter of Pembroke Hall, in Cambridge, Dean of St. Paul's, Biſhop of Durham, and at laſt Archbiſhop of York. He died in 1480.

[6] Richard Plantagenet, Duke of York.

[7] Humphrey Stafford, Duke of Buckingham.

I can

Norfolk, &c. it were well done, for it is told me, he would do much for you.

Maſter Laurence [5] Booth is Privy Seal.

It is ſaid that my Lord of [6] York hath been with the King, and is departed again in right good conceit with the King, but not in great conceit with the Queen.

Some men ſay, had my Lord of [7] Buckingham not have letted [*hindered*] it, my Lord of York had been diſtreſſed [*ſeized*] in his departing.

On Monday laſt paſt, was a great Affray at Coventry, between the Duke of [8] Somerſet's men, and the Watchmen of the Town, and two or three men of the Town were killed there, to (*the*) great diſturbance of all the Lords there, for the alarum Bell was rung, and the Town aroſe, and would have jeoparded [*hazarded*] to have diſtreſſed the Duke of Somerſet, &c. had not the Duke of Buckingham taken a direction therein.

Alſo it is ſaid, the Duke of Buckingham taketh right ſtrangely, that both his Brethren are ſo ſuddenly diſcharged from their Offices of Chancellery and Treaſurerſhip; and that among other cauſeth him that his opinion is contrary to the Queen's intent, and many other alſo, as it is talked.

Item, ſome men ſay, the Council is diſſolved, and that the King is forth to Cheſter, &c. Alſo ſome ſay, that many of the Lords ſhall reſort hither to London againſt [9] All-hallows tide.

And as touching the Election of Sheriffs, men ween that my Lord of Canterbury ſhall have a great rule, and ſpecially in our Country.

[8] Edmund Beaufort, Duke of Somerſet.

[9] Second of November.

I can no more but Almyghty God ſend us as his moſt pleaſer is.

Wretyn al in haſt the ſaterday next aft' Seint Edwards day.

Yo' S'unt,

James Greſham.

11 ½ by 6 ½.

The Seal of this Letter has the impreſſion of a Graſshopper, being the device of the family of Greſham. Pl. XIV. N° 2.

LETTER UIJJ.

To my rytz worchypful Mayſtyr Joñ Paſton be this delyveryd in haſt.

RYTZ worchipful hoſbond I recomawnd me to yow deſyri'g hertyly to her of z^r well-far &c. (*then follows ſome common buſineſs about his farms and tenants.*)

Wyllyam Rutt the whiche is w^t Sir Jōn [1] Heveny'gh'm' kom hom' from London zeſt'day and he ſey'd pleynly to his maſt' and to many other folks y^t the Duke of [2] Suffolk is pardonyd and hath his men azen wayty'g up on hym and is rytz wel at eſe and mery and is in the Kyngs gode g'ſe and in y^e gode cōſeyt of all y^e Lords as well as ev^r he was.

Ther

[1] The Family of Heveningham had large poſſeſſions in Norfolk, and was a family of conſequence in that County for many Deſcents.

[2] Articles of Impeachment were exhibited by the Commons in parliament, againſt the Duke

I can no more, but Almighty God ſend us, as his moſt pleaſure is.

Written all in haſte, the Saturday next after St. Edward's day.

Your Servant,

JAMES GRESHAM.

Saturday, 18th of October,
1449, 28 H. VI.

LETTER VIII.

To my right worſhipful Maſter John Paſton, be this delivered in haſte.

RIGHT worſhipful huſband, I recommend me to you, deſiring heartily to hear of your welfare, &c. *(then follows ſome common buſineſs about his farms and tenants.)*

William Rutt, the which is with Sir John [1] Heveningham came home from London yeſterday, and he ſaid plainly to his Maſter, and to many other Folks, that the Duke of [2] Suffolk is pardoned, and hath his men again waiting upon him, and is right well at eaſe and merry, and is in the King's good grace, and in the good conceit of all the Lords, as well as ever he was.

Duke of Suffolk, in February 1449; and the King, to appeaſe them, committed the Duke to the Tower; his enlargement from thence, &c. is here related; and it ſeems by what is here mentioned, that he appeared abroad uſually with a Guard.

Ther ben many En'mys azens [3] Yermowth and Crowmer and have don moche harm and taken many Englyſch men and put hem in grett diſtreſſe and grettely rawnſommyd hem and the ſeyd Enmys been ſo bold that they kom up to y^e^ lond and pley'n hem on Caſt' ſonds and in other plas' as homely as they were Englyſch men, Folks ben rytz ſor' afred y^t^ they wel don' moche harm y^is^ Som, but if y^r^ be made rytz grett purvyans azens hem.

Other tydy'gs know I nōn at y^is^ tym.

The blyſſeful T'nyte have zow in his kpy'g.

Wretyn at Norwyche on Seynt Gregorys day.

Yowrs,

11 ¾ by 9. [4] M. P.

[3] Party at home ran ſo high at this time, that the Coaſts were neglected, and foreign Enemies ſuffered to commit depredations with impunity.

LET-

There have been many Enemies againſt [3] Yarmouth, and Cromer, and have done much harm, and taken many Engliſh men, and put them in great diſtreſs, and greatly [*heavily*] ranſomed them; and the ſaid Enemies have been ſo bold that they come up to the land and play them on Caiſter Sands and in other places, as homely as [*as much at their eaſe as if*] they were Engliſhmen; Folks be right ſore afraid, that they will do much harm this Summer, but if [*unleſs*] there be made right great purveyance againſt them.

Other tidings know I none at this time; the bliſsful Trinity have you in his keeping.

Written at Norwich, on Saint Gregory's day.

Yours,

[4] MARGARET PASTON.

Norwich,
St. Gregory's Day,
Thurſday 12th of March,
1449, 28 H. VI.

[4] Margaret, wife of John Paſton, Eſq. was daughter and heir of John Mawteby, Eſq. She died in 1484. Pl. 11. N° 25.

LET-

LETTER JE.

The Copie of a notable L're written by the Duke of [1] Suff' to his [2] Sonne giving hym therein very good Counſeil.

MY dere and only welbeloved Sone I beſeche oure Lord in Heven y^e^ maker of alle the world to bleſſe you and to ſende you eu' grace to love hym and to drede hym to y^e^ which as ferre as a Fader may charge his child I both charge you and prei you to ſette alle your ſpirites and wittes to do and to knowe his holy Lawes and Comaundments by the which ye ſhall w^t^ his grete m'cy paſſe alle y^e^ grete tempeſtes and troubles of y^is^ wrecched world, and y^t^ alſo wetyngly ye do no thyng for love nor drede of any erthely creature y^t^ ſhuld diſpleſe hym. And y^re^ as any Freelte maketh you to falle be ſecheth hys m'cy ſoone to calle you to hym agen w^t^ repentaunce ſatisfaccōn and contricōn of youre herte never more in will to offende hym.

Secoundly next hym above alle erthely thyng to be trewe Liege man

The following Pedigree of John de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk, the Son of the Writer of this Letter, is taken from a letter of John Paſton, Eſq. to his Couſin Margaret Paſton, dated Saturday, and written between 1460 and 1466, 1 and 6 of E. IV. having for the paper Mark a Bull.

"Item, as for the Pedegre of y^e^ ſeyd Dewk, he is Sone to Will'm Pool, Dewk of "Suff', Sone to Mychell Pool, Erl of Suff', Sone to Michel Pool, y^e^ firſt Erl of Suff' "of the Poles, mad by Kyng Ric ſeth (*ſince*) my Fader was born.

"And ye ſeyd furſt Mychell was Sone to on (*one*) Will'm Pool of Hull, whech was a "worſchepfull man grow be furtwne of y^e^ world, and he was furſt a Murchant and aft' a "Kenygth and aft' he was mad Baneret."

LETTER IX.

The Copy of a notable Letter, written by the Duke of [1] *Suffolk to his* [2] *Son, giving him therein very good Counsel.*

MY Dear and only wellbeloved Son, I beseech our Lord in Heaven, the Maker of all the World, to bless you, and to send you ever grace to love him, and to dread him, to the which, as far as a Father may charge his child, I both charge you, and pray you to set all your spirits and wits to do, and to know his Holy Laws and Commandments, by the which ye shall, with his great mercy, pass all the great tempests and troubles of this wretched world.

And that, also weetingly, ye do nothing for love nor dread of any earthly creature that should displease him. And there as [*whenever*] any Frailty maketh you to fall, beseech his mercy soon to call you to him again with repentance, satisfaction, and contrition of your heart, never more in will to offend him.

Secondly, next him above all earthly things, to be true Liege-

[1] William de la Pole Duke of Suffolk, succeeded his Brother Michael, slain at the Battle of Agincourt, in 1415, as Earl of Suffolk; he was Prime Minister, and Favourite of Henry VI. and Queen Margaret; was created in 144?, 23 H. VI. Marquis, and in 1448, 26 H. VI. Duke of Suffolk. He was banished by the King, at the instigation of the Commons, &c. and murdered on the Sea, on the 2d of May, 1450, 28 H. VI.

He married Alice, widow of Thomas de Montacute, Earl of Salisbury, and Daughter and heir of Thomas Chaucer, Esq. of Ewelme, in Oxfordshire, and Grand-daughter of Geoffery Chaucer, the celebrated Poet.

[2] John de la Pole (after his Father's Murder) Duke of Suffolk, &c. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Richard Plantagenet, Duke of York, and Sister of Edward IV. He died in 1491, 7 H. VII. and was buried by his Father at Wingfield in Suffolk.

man in hert in wille in thought in dede unto y^e^ Kyng oure alder moſt high and dredde Sou'eygne Lord, to whom bothe ye and I been ſo moche bounde too, Chargyng you as Fader can and may rather to die yan to be y^e^ contrarye or to knowe any thyng y^t^ were ayenſte ye [3] welfare or p'ſp'ite of his moſt riall p'ſone but y^t^ as ferre as youre body and lyf may ſtrecthe ye lyve and die to defende it. And to lete his Highneſſe have knowlache y^r^of in alle y^e^ haſte ye can.

Thirdly in y^e^ ſame wyſe I charge you my Dere Sone alwey as ye be bounden by y^e^ com'aundement of God to do, to love to worſhepe youre Lady and Moder, and alſo y^t^ ye obey alwey hyr com'aundements and to beleve hyr councelles and adviſes in alle youre werks y^e^ which dredeth not but ſhall be beſt and treweſt to you. And yef any other body wold ſtere you to y^e^ contrarie to flee y^e^ councell in any wyſe for ye ſhall fynde it nought and evyll.

Forthermore as ferre as Fader may and can I charge you in any wyſe to flee y^e^ cōpany and councel of proude men, of coveitowſe men and of flateryng men the more eſpecially and myghtily to withſtonde hem and not to drawe ne to medle w^t^ hem w^t^ all youre myght and power. And to drawe to you and to your company good and v'tuowſe men and ſuch as ben of good conu'ſacon and of trouthe and be them ſhal ye nev' be deſeyved ner repente you off, moreover nev' follow youre owne

[3] This very particular advice to his Son, ſhows his fears for the King's perſonal ſafety ar this time.

man in heart, in will, in thought, in deed, unto the King our alder moſt [*greateſt*] high and dread Sovereign Lord, to whom both ye and I be ſo much bound to; Charging you as Father can and may, rather to die than to be the contrary, or to know any thing that were againſt the [3] welfare or proſperity of his moſt Royal Perſon, but that as far as your body and life may ſtretch, ye live and die to defend it, and to let his Highneſs have knowledge thereof in all the haſte ye can.

Thirdly, in the ſame wiſe, I charge you, my dear Son, alway as ye be bounden by the Commandment of God to do, to love, to worſhip, your Lady and Mother; and alſo that ye obey alway her commandments, and to believe her counſels and advices in all your works, the which dread not but ſhall be beſt and trueſt to you.

And if any other body would ſteer you to the contrary, to flee the counſel in any wiſe, for ye ſhall find it nought and evil.

Furthermore, as far as Father may and can, I charge you in any wiſe to flee the Company and Counſel of proud men, of covetous men, and of flattering men, the more eſpecially and mightily to withſtand them, and not to draw nor to meddle with them, with all your might and power; and to draw to you and to your company good and virtuous men, and ſuch as be of good converſation, and of truth, and by them ſhall ye never be deceived nor repent you of.

More-

N. B. Thoſe words with dots over them are added, as in the Copy they were chafed and illegible.

This

witte in no wyſe, but in alle youre werkes of ſuche Folks as I write of above axeth youre adviſe and counſel and doyng thus w^t y^e m'cy of God ye ſhall do right well and lyue in right moche worſhip and grete herts reſt and eaſe. And I wyll be to you as good Lord and Fader as my hert can thynke. And laſt of alle as hertily and as lovyngly as ever Fader bleſſed his child in erthe I yeve you y^e bleſſyng of Oure Lord and of me, whiche of his infynite m'cy encrece you in alle vertu and good lyvyng. And y^t youre blood may by his grace from kynrede to kynrede multeplye in this erthe to hys ſ'viſe in ſuche wyſe as after y^e departyng fro this wreched world here ye and thei' may glorefye hym et'nally amongs his Aungelys in hevyn.

[4] Wreten of myn hand,
y^e day of my dep'tyng fro this land.

Your trewe and lovyng Fader,

11 ¾ by 8 ½.

Suffolk.

Paper Mark.
Cap and Flower de Lys.
Pl. VIII. N° 4.

LET-

This is the Mark on the paper, upon which the Copy of this Letter is written, and being of the ſame kind with that on the paper, which contains the account of the Duke's murder, ſhows that this copy was tranſcribed about the ſame time, and in ſome meaſure authenticates the truth of it.

The Apograph is copied from an Indenture, dated 19th of May, 1436, 14 H. VI. and ſigned by the Duke when Earl of Suffolk. Pl. 1. N° 6.

[4] The concluding ſentences are in rhime.

This affectionate Letter, ſtrongly inculcating his Son's Duty to God, his Sovereign, and his Parents, gives him good and fatherly Counſel, as to his Company, his Converſa-

tion

Moreover, never follow your own wit in no wiſe, but in all your works, of ſuch Folks as I write of above, aſk your advice and counſel, and doing thus, with the mercy of God, ye ſhall do right well, and live in right much worſhip, and great heart's reſt and eaſe.

And I will be to you as good Lord and Father as my heart can think.

And laſt of all, as heartily and as lovingly as ever Father bleſſed his child in earth, I give you the Bleſſing of Our Lord and of me, which of his infinite mercy increaſe you in all virtue and good living; and that your Blood may by his grace from kindred to kindred multiply in this earth to his ſervice, in ſuch wiſe as after the departing from this wretched world here, ye and they, may glorify him eternally amongſt his Angels in heaven.

4 Written of mine hand,
The day of my departing fro this Land.

Your true and loving Father,

SUFFOLK.

April,
1450, 28 H. VI.

tion and Tranſactions in life; tells him, that in following the advice it contains, he will proſper in the world; and then ſolemnly pronouncing a Bleſſing on him, it concludes with a Prayer for him and his Poſterity.

May not this well written Epiſtle alone entitle this Duke to a place amongſt the Noble Authors of England?

This advice written ſo immediately upon his departure, and ſo ſhort a time before his murder, muſt have made a deep impreſſion on his Son's mind, and doubtleſs in that age the Letter was much admired, as even at this period of refined Literature, it may be called a good and an affecting Compoſition.

LET-

LETTER X.

To the ryght Worchipfull John Paſton at Norwich.

RYGHT worchipfull Sr. I recomaunde me to yow and am right ſory of that I ſhalle ſey and have ſoo weſshe this litel bille with ſorwfulle terys that on ethes ye ſhalle reede it.

As on monday nexte after may day ther come tydyngs to London that on thorſday before the Duke of Suff' come unto the [a] Coſtes of Kent full nere Dower with his ij Shepes and a litel Spynnr the qweche Spynnr he ſente with cteyn Lettrs to cteyn of his truſtid men unto Caleys warde to knowe howe he ſhuld be reſceyvyd and with hym mette a Shippe callyd [z] Nicolas of the Towre with other Shippis waytyng on hym and by hem that were in the Spyner the maiſter of the Nicolas hadde knowlich of the Dukes comyng and whanne he eſpyed the Dukes Shepis he ſent forthe his bote to wete what they were and the Duke hym ſelfe ſpakke to hem and ſeyd he was be the Kyngs comaundemēt ſent to Caleys ward, &c.

And they ſeyd he moſte ſpeke with here maſt' and ſoo he wt ij or iij of his men wente forth wyth hem yn here bote to the Nicolas and whanne he come the maſtr badde hym Welcom Traitor as mē ſey and forthr the maiſtr deſyryd to wete yf the Shepmen woldde holde with the Duke and they ſent word they wold not yn noo wyſe, and ſoo he was yn the Nicolas tyl Satrday next folwyng.

[a] Some of our Hiſtorians ſay that he put to Sea from the Coaſt of Norfolk,

Soom

LETTER X.

To the right worſhipful John Paſton, at Norwich.

RIGHT worſhipful Sir, I recommend me to you, and am right ſorry of that I ſhall ſay, and have ſo waſhed this little bill with ſorrowful tears, that uneths [*ſcarcely*] ye ſhall read it.

As on Monday next after May day *(4th May)* there came Tidings to London, that on Thurſday before *(30th of April)*, the Duke of Suffolk came unto the [1] Coaſts of Kent full near Dover with his two Ships and a little Spinner; the which Spinner he ſent with certain Letters, by certain of his truſted men unto Calais ward, to know how he ſhould be received; and with him met a Ship called [2] Nicholas of the Tower with other Ships waiting on him, and by them that were in the Spinner, the Maſter of the Nicholas had knowledge of the Duke's coming.

When he eſpied the Duke's Ships, he ſent forth his Boat to weet what they were, and the Duke himſelf ſpoke to them, and ſaid, he was by the King's Commandment ſent to Calais ward, &c. and they ſaid, he muſt ſpeak with their Maſter; and ſo he with two or three of his men went forth with them in their Boat to the Nicholas; and when he came, the Maſter bade him, Welcome Traitor, as men ſay.

And further the Maſter deſired to wete if the Shipmen would hold with the Duke, and they ſent word they would not in no wiſe; and ſo he was in the Nicholas till Saturday *(2d May)* next following.

[2] This Ship belonged to Briſtol in 1442, 20 H. VI. and was a great Ship with Fore-Stages, and carried 150 men.

Some

Soom ſey he wrotte moche thenke to be delyu'd to the Kynge but thet is not verily knowe, he hadde hes Confeſſo^{r} with hym, &c.

And ſome ſey he was arreyned yn the Sheppe on here man^{r} upon the [3] appechementes and fonde gylty, &c.

Alſo he aſked the name of the Sheppe and whanne he knew it he remembred [4] Stacy that ſeid if he myght eſchape the daung^{r} of the Towr he ſhuld be ſaffe and thanne his herte faylyd hym for he thowght he was deſſeyvyd, and yn the ſyght of all his men he was drawyn ought of the grete Shippe yn to the Bote and there was an Exe and a ſtoke and oon of the lewdeſte of the Shippe badde hym ley down hys hedde and he ſhuld be fair ferd wyth and dye on a ſwerd and toke a ruſty ſwerd and ſmotte of his hedde withyn [5] halfe a doſeyn ſtrokes and toke awey his Gown of ruſſette and his Dobelette of velvet mayled, and leyde his body on the Sonds of Dover and ſome ſey his hedde was ſette oon a pole by it * and hes men ſette on the londe be grette circō$ſt^{u}$nce and preye and the Shreve of Kent doth weche the [6] body and ſent his Unde^{r} Shreve to the Juges to wete what to doo, and alſo to the Kenge whatte ſhalbe doo.

Forther I wotte notte but this fer is y^{t} yf the p's be erroneo^{s} lete his concell reu^{r}ſe it, &c.

Alſo for alle yo^{r} othe^{r} mat^{rs} they ſlepe and the ffree^{r} alſo, &c.

[3] Impeachments by the Commons; this ſhows that theſe Ships were ſent out on purpoſe to take him, &c.

[4] Prophecies in theſe times were generally believed, and being always ambiguouſly expreſſed, had a greater chance of ſometimes being fulfilled.

King Henry IV. from one of theſe ambiguous Prophecies believed he was to die in Jeruſalem.

Some ſay he wrote much thing to be delivered to the King, but that is not verily known.

He had his Confeſſor with him, &c. and ſome ſay, he was arraigned in the Ship on their manner upon the [3] Impeachments and found guilty, &c.

Alſo he aſked the name of the Ship, and when he knew it, he remembred [4] Stacy that ſaid, if he might eſcape the danger of the Tower he ſhould be ſafe, and then his heart failed him, for he thought he was deceived.

And in the ſight of all his men, he was drawn out of the great Ship into the Boat, and there was an Axe, and a Stock, and one of the lewdeſt [*meaneſt*] of the Ship bade him lay down his head, and he ſhould be fairly ferd [*dealt*] with, and die on a Sword; and took a ruſty Sword and ſmote off his head within [5] half a dozen ſtrokes, and took away his Gown of Ruſſet, and his Doublet of velvet mailed, and laid his Body on the Sands of Dover; and ſome ſay his Head was ſet on a pole by it; * and his men ſit on the land by great circumſtance [q. *by great numbers*] and pray.

And the Sheriff of Kent doth watch the [6] body, and (*hath*) ſent his Underſheriff to the Judges to weet what to do; and alſo to the King *(to know)* what ſhall be done.

Further I wot not, but thus far is it, if the Proceſs be erroneous let his Counſel reverſe it, &c.

[5] A moſt cruel manner of putting him to death.

* May not this ſentence be thus read?
and his men [*were*] ſet on the land be [*together with*] great circumſtance [*wealth*] and prey [*booty*].

[6] His Body was taken from Dover Sands, and carried to the Collegiate Church of Wingfield, in Suffolk, where it lies interred under an Altar Tomb, in the Chancel, with his Effigies in Armour, painted, gilt, &c. carved in wood, lying on it. It is remarkably well executed, as is that of Alice his wife, likewiſe, which lies at his right hand.

S^r. Thomas [7] Keriel is take p'ſon^r and alle the legge harneyſe and abowte iij m^e Engliſhe men ſlayn.

Mathew [8] Gooth with xv^c fledde and ſavyd hym ſelffe and hem, and Peris Bruſy was Cheffe Capteyn and hadde x m^e frenſhe men and more, &c.

I prey yow lete my maſtras yo^r mode^r knowe theſe tydyngis and God have yow all yn his kepyn.

I prey yow this bille may recomaunde me to my Maſtraſes yo^r Mod^r and Wyfe, &c.

James Greſham hath wretyn to John of Dam and recomaundith hym, &c.

Wretyn yn gret haſte at Lond, the v day of May, &c.

By yowr Wyfe,

W. L.

12 by 8 ½.

Paper Mark.
Cap and Fleur de Lys.
Pl. VIII. N° 4.

LET-

[7] He was taken Priſoner at the battle of Fourmigni, fought on the 18th of April, 1450, where he defended himſelf with great bravery. He was beheaded by Queen Margaret's order, after the ſecond battle of St. Alban's, in 1460.

[8] Query, if the brave Matthew Gough, who was afterwards ſlain in Cade's Rebellion, fighting on the Citizens' Part, in July 1450, at the battle of the bridge.

The concluſion of this Letter puzzled me for a long time; at firſt I thought that the word Wyfe might be read Neif or Servant, but the W was too much like all the others in the ſame Letter to warrant that reading.

I think it may be thus explained.

On looking over this Collection of Letters, I found ſome ſubſcribed W L, and others Will^m Lomner in the ſame hand.

But

Alſo for all the other matters, they ſleep and the Fryar alſo, &c. Sir Thomas [7] Keriel is taken Priſoner and all the leg harneſs, and about 3000 Engliſhmen ſlain.

Matthew [8] Gooth [q. *Gough*] with 1500 fled, and ſaved himſelf and them. And Peris Bruſy was chief Captain and had 10,000 Frenchmen and more, &c.

I pray you let my Miſtreſs your Mother know theſe tidings, and God have you all in his keeping.

I pray you (*that*) this bill may recommend me to my Miſtreſſes your Mother and wife, &c.

James Greſham hath written to John of Dam and recommendeth him, &c.

Written in great haſte at London the 5th day of May, &c.

By your Wife,

WILLIAM LOMNER.

London,
Tueſday, 5th of May,
1450, 28 H. VI.

LET-

But then this difficulty occurred, how could W L or Will[m] Lomner be the Wife of John Paſton?

On examining ſome of the Letters of Margaret Paſton to her huſband, and which were ſubſcribed "Be your Wife M P." I found them written in the ſame hand as thoſe ſigned W L, and Will[m] Lomner.

I gueſs, therefore, that, being uſed to write ſometimes for his Miſtreſs to her huſband John Paſton, he now in his hurry inſtead of concluding "By your Servant W L, as ſome of his Letters do, he wrote by miſtake, By yowr Wyfe, W L. Pl. 11. N° 26.

The family of Lomner had property both at Mannington, and Wood Dalling in Norfolk; at the latter Town, his Son William built a caſtellated Manſion.

LETTER XJ.

To my right worſhupfull Coſygne John Paſton of Norwyche Squyer.

RIGHT worſhupfull Sr. I recomaunde me unto yow in the moſt goodly wyſe that y can, and forasmuche as ye deſired of me to ſende yow worde of dyuſ matirs her' whiche been opened in the prliament openly, I ſende yow of theme ſuche as I can.

Firſt mooſt eſpi'all that for verray trowthe upon ſat'day that laſt was the Duke of [1] Suffolk was taken in the See, and there he was byheded and his body wt the apprtenaunce ſette at lande at Dover, and alle the Folks that he haad wt hym were ſette to lande, and haad noon harme.

Alſo the Kyng hath ſūwhat graanted to have the reſūpſion agayne in ſūme but nat in alle, &c.

Alſo yef ye purpoſe to come hydre to put up your [2] bylles, ye may come now in a good tyme, ffor now euſy man that hath any they put theyme now inne, and ſo may ye yif ye come, wt Godds Grace to your pleaſur.

Ferthermore upon the iiijthe day of this monthe the Erle of [3] Deveneſshire come hydre wt iijc men [4] wel byſeen, &c.

[1] This Account exactly agrees with that in the laſt Letter, as to the murder, &c. of the Duke of Suffolk.

[2] Here follows ſome advice relative to ſome private Bills of J. Paſton, to be preſented to the Parliament.

And

LETTER XI.

To my right worſhipful Couſin, John Paſton, of Norwich, Eſquire.

RIGHT worſhipful Sir, I recommend me unto you in the moſt goodly wiſe that I can; and for as much as ye deſired of me to ſend you word of divers matters here, which have been opened in the Parliament openly, I ſend you of them ſuch as I can.

Firſt moſt eſpecial, that for very truth upon Saturday that laſt was, the Duke of [1] Suffolk was taken in the Sea, and there he was beheaded, and his body with the appurtenance ſet at land at Dover; and all the Folks that he had with him were ſet to land, and had none harm, &c.

Alſo the King hath ſomewhat granted to have the reſumption again, in ſome but not in all, &c.

Alſo if ye purpoſe to come hither to put up your [2] bills, ye may come now in a good time, for now every man that hath any, they put them in, and ſo may ye if ye come, with God's Grace to your pleaſure.

Furthermore upon the 4th day of this Month, the Earl of [3] Devonſhire came hither with 300 men [4] well beſeen, &c. and

[3] Thomas Courtney Earl of Devonſhire was taken at the battle of Towton, in 1461, and afterwards beheaded, by order of Edward IV. he having revolted from Edward to Henry VI.

[4] A fine body of men well arrayed and accoutred.

upon

And upon the morow aft' my Lord of [5] Warrewyke w[t] iiij[c] and moo, &c.

Alſo as hyt ys noyſed here Calys ſhal be byſeged w[t]ynne this vij dayes, &c.

God ſave the Kyng and ſende us pees, &c.

Other tithyngs be ther noon here, but Almyghty God have yow in his kepyng,

Writen at Leyceſtr the vj day of May.

Your Coſigne,

[6] John Crane.

11 by 5 ½.

Paper Mark.
Croſs, &c.
Pl. VIII. N° 6.

[5] Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick, was killed in the battle of Barnet, in 1471, moſt furiouſly fighting againſt Edward IV.

upon the morrow after, my Lord of [5] Warwick, with 400 and more, &c.

Alſo as it is noiſed here, Calais ſhall be beſieged within this ſeven days, &c.

God ſave the King, and ſend us peace, &c.

Other tidings be there none here, but Almighty God have you in his keeping.

Written at Leiceſter, the 6th day of May.

Your Couſin,

[6] JOHN CRANE.

Leiceſter,
Wedneſday, 6th of May,
1450, 28 H. VI.

[6] The Cranes were a good family, flouriſhing at this time in the Counties of Norfolk and Suffolk, and the writer of this Letter belonged to the Court. Pl. 111. N° 29.

The Seal on this Letter is defaced, but it has a neat braid of twine round it. Pl. XIV. N° 3.

Some

Some Obſervations on the two preceding Letters to the worſhipful John Paſton, Eſquire, at Norwich, the firſt dated from London on the 5th, and the other from Leiceſter on the 6th of May, 1450, 28 H. VI.

THE Murder of William de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk, is, by our Hiſtorians, variouſly related; ſome informing us, in general terms, that it was committed by the contrivance of the Party then in oppoſition to the Queen; others, that it was done by order of the Party then in the Duke of York's Intereſt; and others, that a Captain Nicholas, of a Ship belonging to the Tower, or a Captain of a Ship called the Nicholas, met him on the Sea, and there took and murdered him, but whether in conſequence of being employed for that purpoſe, or on his own authority does not ſufficiently appear.

A Short Sketch of the Proceedings of the Parliament, and of the Duke of Suffolk's ſituation previous to his leaving the Kingdom, are neceſſary to the clearly underſtanding of the following account.

Upon the Meeting of the Parliament at Weſtminſter, in November 1449, the Commons preſented to the Lords ſeveral Articles of Impeachment againſt the Duke of Suffolk. The Queen, fearing the conſequences of theſe, perſuaded the King to ſend the Duke to the Tower, hoping by this ſtep to ſatisfy the Commons.

After this, by her addreſs, the Parliament was adjourned to Leiceſter, to meet in April 1450, where the Duke, being releaſed from his impriſonment, appeared, with the King and Queen, as Prime Miniſter.

This Proceeding extremely offending the Commons; they preſented a Petition to the King, praying that all, who had been concerned in the delivery of Normandy to the French, might be puniſhed.

The Queen's Fears were now renewed, and ſhe prevailed upon the King inſtantly to baniſh the Duke for five years, which he did; and the Duke very ſoon embarked with an intention of going to France, where his Friend the Duke of Somerſet was Regent.

From the plain State of this hiſtorical Fact, delivered down to us in theſe Letters, the following obſervations are deduced, firſt premiſing that, in 1447, the Duke of Suffolk, in conjunction with the Queen and her Miniſtry, had been one of the principal Agents in the Murder of the Duke of Glouceſter; an Event which, in all human probability, was the immediate occaſion of the Duke of York's Thoughts of aſſerting his Claim to the Crown, a Claim, in which he could have had little hopes of ſucceſs, during the life of a Prince, the Uncle of the reigning King, and the Brother, and Son of the two preceding Sovereigns.

A Prince likewiſe well beloved by the People, and endowed with abilities which would have adorned a Throne.

The Duke of York at this time moſt certainly had a perſonal hatred to the Duke of Suffolk, as by him he had been not long before diſmiſſed from the Regency of France, and was very lately ſent into Ireland, to quell a Rebellion with a Force inadequate to the purpoſe.

The Duke of Suffolk's undoubted attachment to the Houſe of Lancaſter, muſt be, at all times, a great impediment to the taking of many neceſſary ſteps by the York Party, towards carrying this meditated Claim into execution; the having him therefore put to Death, muſt be a very deſireable circumſtance to the Duke of York and his Friends.

The Arrival of the Earls of Devonſhire and Warwick, at this critical time at Leiceſter, with ſuch large Retinues of Men "well byſeen," furniſhes very ſufficient reaſons for thinking, that the Murder of the

Duke of Suffolk was a premeditated ſcheme; and that theſe Noblemen came, thus attended, to prevent any proceedings which might have been adopted by the Queen and her Party, on their knowledge of this Event being accompliſhed; for theſe two Noblemen could not arrive at Leiceſter in conſequence of the Murder, as it was impoſſible for them to know of it, to get their men together, and to enter Leiceſter, the one on the 4th, the other on the 5th of May, the account of it not arriving in London till the 4th; they therefore moſt probably came in conſequence of their previous knowledge of the plan that was laid, to wait the event of it, and to act as circumſtances might require.

The Sentence of Baniſhment ſeems to have been almoſt inſtantaneous, this method therefore of taking him off, muſt have been as inſtantaneouſly reſolved upon, by thoſe of the Party then near the Court; for though the People in general, and the Commons, hated the Duke, it no where appears, that he was thus taken off by any generally concerted plan for that purpoſe, but by a Party; and as theſe two Noblemen, both at that time profeſſed Friends to the Duke of York, arrived thus critically with ſuch numerous Attendants ſo well arrayed and accoutred, it gives the greateſt reaſon to ſuſpect that it was by their Party.

What Captain of a Ship that had met the Duke on the Sea, unleſs his Ship had been ſent out on purpoſe to take him, could have known what had paſſed at Leiceſter, otherwiſe than from the Duke's own people in the Spinner, and from that account only would have dared to take and murder him?

This Force too, the Nicholas, with the other Ships waiting on him, was certainly much ſuperior to the Duke's two Ships, and one little Spinner; otherwiſe, how can we account for his own Shipmen not holding

holding with him; for however lowly fallen in the public eſteem, a Nobleman, of his conſequence and poſſeſſions, muſt have ſtill had faithful Adherents enough to have defended him; and to have accompanied him to France; unleſs they found that reſiſtance in their ſituation to ſuch ſuperior force, (a force ſent out on purpoſe to take him,) could be of no ſervice; but would moſt probably have haſtened his fate.

The Words, "God ſave the Kyng, and ſende us pees," ſeem to inſinuate a ſuſpicion of the King's perſonal ſafety at this time, and a fear that the diſturbances which then overſpread the land, might be productive of civil wars; for the Prayer for Peace being coupled with that for the King's ſafety, plainly refers to the diſturbances at home, and not to thoſe in France.

From theſe, and all other circumſtances, therefore, as ſtated in the two preceding Letters, it may be juſtly concluded, that the York Party not only contrived, but perpetrated the Murder of this Nobleman; who thus fell a terrible Example, that Blood requires Blood; and had it been the only, inſtead of the firſt blood ſpilt by the Yorkiſts, happy had it been for England, who would not then have had to lament thoſe Deluges of it, which ſoon after flowed, in the dreadful Civil Conteſts between the two Houſes of York and Lancaſter.

Theſe two Letters and the Obſervations were read at the Meeting of the Antiquary Society, on Thurſday the 30th of November, 1780, and entered in the Society's Minute Book. Vol. xvii. Page 181, &c.
Thanks, &c. were ordered for the Communication.

LETTER XIJ.

To my truſty and welbelovyd frende Sir Thomas Howys p'ſon of Caſtellcombe.

TRUSTY and welbelovyd frende I grete you well. *(Here follow ſome Orders reſpecting his Affairs at Caiſter.)*

And I pray you ſende me word who darre be ſo hardy to keck agen you in my ryght. And ſey hem on my half that they ſhall be qwyt as ferre as law and reaſon wolle.

And yff they wolle not dredde ne obbey that; then they ſhall be quyt by [1] Blacberd or Whyteberd that ys to ſey by God or the Devyll. And therfor I charge yow ſend me word whethyr ſuch as hafe be myne Adv'ſaries before thys tyme contynew ſtill yn her wylfullneſſe, &c.

Itm I hyre oft tymys manye ſtru'nge Rapports of demeny's of the [2] gouv'n'ce of my place at Caſtre and othyr plaſys, as yn my chatell approvyng, yn my wynys the kepyng of my wardrobe and clothys, the avaylle of my Conyes at Haylyſdon, &c. and approwem't of my londys. P'yng you hertly as my full truſt ys yn you to help reforme it, and that ye ſuffre no vityouſe man at my place of Caſtre abyde but wellgouv'ned and diligent as ye wolle aunſwer to it.

This is a private Letter, and would not have been worthy of publication, but as being characteriſtic of Sir John Faſtolf's Diſpoſition.

[1] Swearing, we are told by ſome of our Hiſtorians, was the faſhion of the time, and we are here preſented with one of the uſual Oaths.

Allmyghty

LETTER XII.

To my truſty and wellbeloved Friend, Sir Thomas Howes, Parſon of Caſtlecomb.

TRUSTY and wellbeloved Friend, I greet you well. *(Here follow ſome Orders reſpecting his Affairs at Caiſter.)* And I pray you ſend me word who dare be ſo hardy to kick againſt you in my right; and ſay *(to)* them on my half [*behalf*] that they ſhall be quiet as far as Law and Reaſon will; and if they will not dread nor obey that, then they ſhall be quiet by [1]Blackbeard or Whitebeard, that is to ſay, by God or the Devil; and therefore I charge you, ſend me word whether ſuch as have been mine Adverſaries before this time, continue ſtill in their willfullneſs, &c.

Item, I hear oft times many ſtrange Reports of the demeaning of the [2]governance of my place at Caiſter and other places, as in my Chatell approving, in my Wines, the keeping of my Wardrobe and Cloths, the Avail of my Conies at Helleſdon, &c. and Approvement of my Lands; praying you heartily, as my full truſt is in you, to help *(to)* reform it.

And that ye ſuffer no vicious man at my place of Caiſter *(to)* abide, but well governed and diligent, as ye will anſwer to it.

[2] His Houſehold, &c. ſeems to have been ill managed in his abſence, for the word *approve* in this place muſt mean *to waſte* or *manage ill.*

Thomas Howes appears to have been a Superintendant of his Affairs at Caiſter. He was Rector of Blofield in Norfolk, from about 1460 to 1471; and was one of Sir John's Executors. Caſtlecomb is in Wiltſhire.

Almighty

Allmyghty God kepe you. Wryt at London xxvij. day of Maij A° xxviij° R R H vj.

[3] John Faſtolf, Kt.

10 ¾ by 5 ¾.

[3] Sir John Faſtolf, had been a Commander of approved valour in the Wars in France, and was made a Knight of the Garter; he buikt this Place at Caiſter, where he reſided in

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LETTER XIIII.

To my ryght honurabyll Maiſter John Paſton.

RYGHT honurabyll and my ryght enterly bylovyd Maiſter I recomaunde me un to yow w^t all maner of due reu^rence in the moſte louly wyſe as me ought to do eu^rmor deſyryng to here of yo^r worſhipfull ſtate proſp'ite and welfar the whech I beſeke God of his aboundant gr'ce encrece and mayntene to his moſte pleſaunce and to yo^r hartis deſyre.

Pleaſyth it yo^r gode and gracios maiſterſhipp tendyrly to conſedir the grete loſſes and hurts y^t yo^r por peticioner haeth and

This Letter was written in 1465, 5 E. IV. but it relates ſo entirely to a Tranſaction in June and July 1450, 28 H. VI. that I have thought it better to place it here, according to the Date of the Event it records, than according to the Date of the Time when it was written.

It preſents to us, a certain and curious Account of the Commons of Kent, when aſſembled at Blackheath under Cade, in 1450, and was written by J. Payn (then a Servant to Sir John Faſtolf) who was taken by them, carried about with them, and threatened to have been beheaded, &c.

It

Almighty God keep you. Written at London, the 27th day of May, in the 28th year of the reign of King Henry VIth.

[3] JOHN FASTOLF, Kt.

London,
Wedneſday, 27th of May,
1450, 28 H. VI.

in great ſtate and magnificence. He was born in 1377, and died on the 6th of November, 1459, when he was above 82 years old. Pl. II. N° 15.

LETTER XIII.

To my right honourable Maſter, John Paſton.

RIGHT honourable and my right entirely beloved Maſter, I recommend me unto you, with all manner of due reverence in the moſt lowly wiſe as me ought to do, evermore deſiring to hear of your worſhipful ſtate, proſperity and welfare; the which I beſeek [*beſeech*] God, of his abundant grace, increaſe and maintain to his moſt pleaſance, and to your heart's deſire.

Pleaſeth it, your good and gracious Maſterſhip, tenderly to conſider the great loſſes and hurts, that your poor Petitioner hath,

It truly ſhews to us the violence and barbarity of a body of men, collected chiefly from the meaneſt of the People, combined together for the pretended purpoſe of Reformation; but really for the Deſtruction of all good Order, and legal Government.

J. Payn had been formerly a Servant to Sir John Faſtolf, of ſome conſequence, and was now a Petitioner for ſome relief, on account of his loſſes and misfortunes, while a Priſoner, &c. with the Rebels, from John Paſton, one of the Executors of Sir John Faſtolf's Will. Pl. III. N° 30.

and

and haeth jhad evyrſeth the Comons of Kent come to the Blakheth and y^t^ is at xv yer paſſed wher'as my Maiſt' Syr John [1] Faſtolf knyght y^t^ is youre Teſtat^r^ com'andyt yo^r^ beſecher to take a man and ij of the beſte orſſe y^t^ wer in his ſtabyll w^t^ hym to ryde to the Comens of Kent to gete the Articles y^t^ they come for. and ſo I dyd and alſo ſone as I come to the Blakheth the [2] Capteyn made the Comens to take me and for the ſavacion of my Maiſt's horſe I made my fellowe to ryde a wey w^t^ the ij horſes and I was brought forth w^t^ befor the Capteyn of Kent and the Capteyn demaund^t^ me what was my cauſe of comyng thedyr and why y^t^ I made my fellowe to ſtele a wey w^t^ he horſe and I ſeyd y^t^ I come thedyr to cher' w^t^ my wyves brethren and other y^t^ wer' my alys and Goſſippes of myn y^t^ wer' p'ſent ther' and yan was y^r^ oone y^r^ and ſeid to the Capteyn y^t^ I was one of S^r^. John Faſtolfes men and the ij horſe wer' S^r^. John Faſtolfes and then the Capteyn lete cry treſon upon me thorought ought all the felde and brought me at iiij p'tes of the feld w^t^ a Harrawd of the Duke of [3] Exett^r^ before me in the Dukes Cote of Armes makyng iiij Oyes at iiij p'tes of the feld p'claymyng opynly by the ſeid Harrawd y^t^ I was ſent thedyr for to aſpy yeyre puſaunce and theyre Abyllyments of werr fro the grettyſt Tray't^r^ y^t^ was in Yngelond or in Fraunce

as

[1] He died on the 6th of November, St. Leonard's Day, in 1459, aged 80 years and upwards.

[2] Jack Cade, an Iriſhman; he called himſelf John Mortimer, of the Houſe of Marche, he was likewiſe ſtyled Captain Mend-all.

[3] It cannot be ſuppoſed that the Duke of Exeter, a faithful Lancaſtrian, took any part in this Commotion, but it is probable his Herald might be forced into the ſervice of the Rebels.

and hath had, ever ſince the Commons of Kent came to the Blackheath, and that is at 15 years paſſed; whereas my Maſter Sir John [1] Faſtolf knight, that is, your Teſtator, commanded your Beſeecher to take a man, and two of the beſt horſes that were in his ſtable, with him to ride to the Commons of Kent, to get the Articles that they come for; and ſo I did; and all ſo ſoon as I came to the Blackheath, the [2] Captain made the Commons to take me; and for the ſavation [*ſaving*] of my Maſter's horſes I made my Fellow to ride away with the two horſes; and I was brought forthwith before the Captain of Kent; and the Captain demanded (*of*) me, what was my cauſe of coming thither, and why that I made my Fellow to ſteal away with the horſes; and I ſaid, that I came thither to cheer with my wife's brethren, and others that were mine Allies, and Goſſips of mine, that were preſent there; and then was there one there, and [*who*] ſaid to the Captain, that I was one of Sir John Faſtolf's men, and the two horſes were Sir John Faſtolf's; and then the Captain, let cry Treaſon upon me throughout all the field, and brought me at four parts of the field, with a Herald of the Duke of [3] Exeter before me, in the Duke's Coat of Arms, making four Oyez at four parts of the field; proclaiming openly by the ſaid Herald, that I was ſent thither for to eſpy their puiſſance, and their habiliments of war, from the greateſt Traitor that was in England or in France, as

Henry Holland, Duke of Exeter, though he married Anne, Siſter of Edward IV. always adhered to the Houſe of Lancaſter, and after the battle of Barnet, in 1471, took Sanctuary at Weſtminſter; whence he privately eſcaped abroad, where he lived in great poverty and diſtreſs. It is ſaid that his dead body was found in 1474, on the ſea ſhore, on the Coaſt of Kent.

as y^e ſeyd Capteyn made p'claymacion at y^t tyme fro oone S^r. John Faſtolf knyght the whech mynnyſshyd all the Garriſons of Norm^u^ndy and Manns and Mayn the whech was the cauſe of the leſyng of all the Kyng's tytyll and ryght of an herytñce y^t he had by yonde ſee and morovyr he ſeid y^t the ſeid S^r. John Faſtolf had furnyſshyd his plaſe w^t the olde Sawdyors of Norm^u^ndy and Abyllymēts of werr to deſtroy the Comens of Kent whan y^t they come to Southewerk and y^r for he ſeyd playnly y^t I ſhulde leſe my hede and ſo furthew^t I was taken and led to the Capteyns Tent and j ax and j blok was brought forth to have ſmetyn of myn hede and yan my Maiſt' [4] Ponyngs yo^t^ brodyr w^t other of my Frendes come and lettyd y^e Capteyn and ſeyd pleynly y^t y^r ſhulde dye a C or ij y^t in caſe be y^t I dyed and ſo by y^t meane my lyf was ſavyd at y^t tyme and yan I was ſworen to the Capteyn and to the Comens y^t I ſhulde go to Southewerk and aray me in the beſt wyſe y^t I coude and come ageyn to hem to helpe hem and ſo I gote tharticles and brought hem to my Maiſt' and y^t coſt me mor' emongs y^e Comens y^t day yan xxvij S.

Wherupon I come to my Maiſt' Faſtolf and brought hym tharticles and enforme^d^ hym of all the mat' and counſeyled hym to put a wey all his Abyllyments of werr and the olde Sawdiors and ſo he dyd and went hymſelf to the Tour and all his meyny w^t hym but Betts and j Mathew Brayn and had not I ben the Comens wolde have brennyd his plaſe and all his ten'uryes wherthorough it coſte me of my noune p'pr godes at

[4] Robert Poynyngs married Elizabeth, the Siſter of J. Paſton, and was Sword Bearer and Carver to Cade.

y^t

the ſaid Captain made proclamation at that time, from one Sir John Faſtolf knight, the which miniſhed [*diminiſhed*] all the Garriſons of Normandy, and Manns, and Mayn, the which was the cauſe of the loſing of all the King's title and right of an heritance, that he had beyond ſea. And moreover, he ſaid, that the ſaid Sir John Faſtolf had furniſhed his Place with the old Soldiers of Normandy and habiliments of war, to deſtroy the Commons of Kent, when that they came to Southwark, and therefore he ſaid plainly that I ſhould loſe my head; and ſo forthwith I was taken, and led to the Captain's Tent, and one axe and one block was brought forth to have ſmitten off mine head; and then my Maſter [4] Poynyngs your brother, with other of my Friends came, and letted [*prevented*] the Captain, and ſaid plainly, that there ſhould die an hundred or two, that in caſe be, that I died; and ſo by that mean my life was ſaved at that time.

And then I was ſworn to the Captain, and to the Commons, that I ſhould go to Southwark, and array me in the beſt wiſe that I could, and come again to them to help them; and ſo I got the Articles, and brought them to my Maſter, and that coſt me more amongſt the Commons that day than 27^{s}.

Whereupon I came to my Maſter Faſtolf, and brought him the Articles, and informed him of all the matter, and counſelled him to put away all his habiliments of war, and the old Soldiers, and ſo he did, and went himſelf to the Tower, and all his meny [*family*] with him, but Betts and one Matthew Brayn; and had not I been, the Commons would have brenned [*burnt*] his Place, and all his Tenuries; where though it coſt me of my own proper

y^t tyme mor than vj m'rks in mate and drynke and nought w^tſtondyng the Capteyn y^t ſame tyme lete take me atte Whyte Harte in Suthewerk and y^r comandyt Lovelaſe to diſpoyle me oute of myn aray and ſo he dyd and y^r he toke a fyn Gowne of Muſt' dewyllrs furryd w^t fyn beu^rs and j peyr of [5] Bregandyrns kev^rt w^t blew fellewet and gylt naile w^t legharneyſe, the vallew of the gown and the Bregardyns viij li.

Itm the Capteyn ſent certeyn of his meyny to my Chamber in yo^r rents and y^r breke up my Cheſt and toke a wey j Obligacion of myn y^t was due unto me of xxxvj li. by a p'ſt of Poules and j nother Obligacion of j knyght of x^li and my purſe w^t v ryngs of golde and xvij^s vj^d of golde and ſylv^r and j herneyſe complete of the touche of [6] Milleyn and j gowne of fyn perſe blewe furryd w^t Mart'ns and ij Gounes one furryd w^t bogey and j nother lyned w^t ffryſe and y^r wolde have ſmetyn of myn hede wh'n y^t they had dyſpoyled me atte White Harte and y^r my Maiſt' Ponyngs and my Frends ſavyd me and ſo I was put up tyll at nyght y^t the [7] bat'yle was at London Brygge and yan attenyght the Capteyn put me oute into the batayle atte brygge and y^r I was won'dyt and hurte nere hand to deth, and y^r I was vj oures in the batayle and myght nevyr come oute y^rof and iiij tymes befor' y^t tyme I was caryed abought thoroughtt

5 A Coat of Mail, conſiſting of many jointed and ſcale-like Plates, &c.

6 Milan, a City in Italy, famous for its works in iron and ſteel, &c.

7 The battle at the Bridge was fought, according to our Hiſtorians, on the 8th of July, 1450; but on a paper, amongſt this collection of Letters, marked with the Bull's Head and Star, and on which are recorded ſeveral Events of the reign of Henry VI. is the following Note.

goods at that time more than ſix marks [4*l.*] in meat and drink, and [*yet*] notwithſtanding the Captain that ſame time, let take me at the White Hart in Southwark, and there commanded Lovelace to deſpoil me out of mine array, and ſo he did; and there he took a fine gown of Muſter' devillers furred with fine beavers, and one pair of [5] Brigandines covered with blue velvet and gilt nails, with leg-harneſs; the value of the Gown and the Brigandines 8*l.*

Item, the Captain ſent certain of his meny to my Chamber in your rents, and there *(they)* broke up my Cheſt, and took away one Obligation of mine, that was due unto me of 36*l.* by a Prieſt of Paul's, and one other Obligation, of one knight of 10*l.* and my purſe with five Rings of gold, and 17*s.* 6*d.* of gold and ſilver; and one harneſs complete of the touch of [6] Milan; and one Gown of fine Perſe blue, furred with Martens; and two Gowns, one furred with Bogey, [*Budge*,] and one other lined with frieze; and there would have ſmitten off mine head, when that they had deſpoiled me at (*the*) White Hart; and there my Maſter Poynyngs, and my Friends ſaved me, and ſo I was put up, till at night that the [7] Battle was at London Bridge; and then at night the Captain put me out into the battle at the Bridge, and there I was wounded, and hurt near hand to death; and there I was ſix hours in the battle, and might never come out thereof; and four times before that time, I was

" Jak Cade, proditor de Kent fugit de le Blakheth xxij die Junij Anno 28 H. VI.
" — Julij menſe decapitat' fuit."
If therefore Cade fled from Blackheath on the 22d of June, the battle at the Bridge muſt have been fought then, and not in July.

carried

thorought Kent and Souſex and y^r they wolde have ſmetyn of my hede and in Kent y^r as my wyfe dwellyd they toke awey all oure godes mevabyll y^t we had and y^r wolde have hongyd my wyfe and v of my chyldern and lefte her no mor' gode but her kyrtyll and her ſmook and a none aftyr y^t Hurlyng the Byſshop [8] Roſſe apechyd me to the Quene and ſo I was areſtyd by the Quenes com'aundent in to the Marchalſy and y^r was in rygt grete duraſſe and fer' of myn lyf and was thretenyd to have ben hongyd drawē and qu'rt'yd and ſo wolde have made me to have pechyd my Maiſt' Faſtolf of [9] Treſon and by cauſe y^t I wolde not yey had me up to Weſtm' and y^r wolde have ſent me to the Gole houſe at Wyndſor' but my wyves and j Coſeyn of myn noune y^t wer' yomen of y^e Croune yey went to the Kyng and gote graſe and j Chartyr of p'don.

Per le v're,

J. Payn.

Paper Mark.
YHS ſurrounded with a
radiated Star of 16 Points.
Pl. VIII. N° 5.

LET.

[8] John Lowe, a learned Divine.

[9] Why this attempt was made upon him to accuſe his Maſter Sir John Faſtolf of Trea-

ſon

carried about throughout Kent and Suſſex, and there they would have ſmitten off my head; and in Kent there as [*where*] my Wife dwelled, they took away all our Goods moveable that we had; and there would have have hanged my Wife, and five of my Children, and left her no more goods but her Kirtle and her Smock; and anon after that Hurling [*Commotion*], the Biſhop of [8] Rocheſter impeached me to the Queen, and ſo I was arreſted by the Queen's commandment into the Marſhalſea, and there was in right great dureſs, and fear of mine life, and was threatened to have been hanged, drawn, and quartered; and ſo (*they*) would have made me have impeached my Maſter Faſtolf of [9] Treaſon, and becauſe that I would not, they had me up to Weſtminſter, and there would have ſent me to the Gaol Houſe at Windſor, but my Wife's, and one Couſin of mine own, that were Yeomen of the Crown, they went to the King, and got grace and one Charter of Pardon.

Per le votre,

J. PAYN.

June and July
1450, 28 H. VI.
but written
1465, 5 E. IV.

ſon I cannot conceive, unleſs it was, becauſe Sir John left his Houſe, &c. in Southwark, and retired to the Tower, inſtead of reſiſting and attacking the Rebels.

LET-

LETTER XIII.

Richard Duke of York his Peticōn to Kyng Henry for the puny'ſhement of Treytors, &c.

PLEASE it your hyghnes tendirly to conſider the grett grutchyng and Romer that is univerſaly in this your reame of y^t^ Juſtice is nouth dewly miniſtrid to ſuch as treſpas and offende a yens your lawes and in ſpecial of them that ben endited of Treſon and oy^r^ beyng openly noyſed of the ſame wherfore for gret inconveniens y^t^ have fallen and grett is lyke to fallen her after in your ſeid Reame which god defende but if be your hyghneſſe p'vyſion covenable be mad for dew reformacon and punyſhment in this behalf Wherfore I your humble ſuget and lyge man Richard Duke of York willyng as effectually as I ꝯan and deſiryng ſuerte and p'ſp'ite of your moſt roiall p'ſon and welfare of this your noble reame councel and adv'tyſe your excellent for the ſ conv'ſacōn of Good tranquillite and peſable rewle among all trew ſogetts for to ordeyn and p'vyde y^t^ dewe Juſtice be had a yenſt all ſuch that ben ſo endited or openly ſo noyſed Wher inne I offre and wol

This does not appear to have been the original Petition, which was delivered to the King, but a Copy of it then taken and ſent to J. Paſton.

The Duke of York, returning from his Government of Ireland in 1451, found the Miniſters ſuſpicious of him; he therefore, by the advice of his Friends, retired into Wales,

LETTER XIV.

Richard Duke of York's Petition to King Henry for the Puniſhment of Traitors, &c.

PLEASE it, your Highneſs, tenderly to conſider the great grudging and Rumour that is univerſally in this your Realm, of that Juſtice is not duly miniſtered to ſuch as treſpaſs, and offend againſt your laws; and in ſpecial of them, that (*have*) been endited of Treaſon, and others, being openly noiſed of the ſame; wherefore, for great inconvenience that have fallen, and great is like to fall hereafter, in your ſaid Realm, which God defend, *unleſs* by your Highneſs, proviſion convenable be made for due reformation, and puniſhment in this behalf; Wherefore I, your humble Subject, and Liege man, Richard Duke of York, willing as effectually as I can, and deſiring ſurety and proſperity of your moſt royal perſon, and welfare of this your noble Realm, counſel and advertiſe your excellence, for the [1] converſation of good tranquillity and peaceable rule among all true ſubjects, for to ordain and provide, that due Juſtice be had againſt all ſuch that (*have*) been ſo endited, or openly ſo noiſed; Wherein I offer, and will put

Wales, and from thence ſent this Petition to the King, which was chiefly aimed at the Duke of Somerſet. Pl. 1. N° 4.

A civil Anſwer was returned, informing him that proper meaſures were to be taken, and that he would be one of the Commiſſioners for putting them into execution.

[1] Should not this word be *conſervation?*

wol put me in Devour for to execute your comaundements in thes p'miſes of ſuch offenders and redreſſe of the ſeid myſrewlers to my myth and power And for the haſty execucon herof lyke it your hyghnes to dreſſe your lett'es of prevy ſeale and writts to your officers and miniſtres to do take and areſte all ſoch p'ſons ſo noyſed or endited of what aſtatte degre or condicōn ſo ev' thei be and them to comytte to your [2] tour of London or to other your p'ſons ther to abyde with outen bayle or maynprice on to the tyme y[t] that thei be utt'ly tryed and declared after the cours of your lawe.

11 ½ by 4 ½.
Paper Mark.
N. B. The paper is cut ſo that only part of the Mark remains; it appears to be a Pillar.
Pl. VIII. N° 7,

LET-

[2] This ſhews, that the Tower of London, was, in this age, a Priſon allotted for the keeping of thoſe, who were accuſed of Crimes againſt the State.

This

myſelf in Devour [*duty*] for to execute your commandments in theſe premiſes, of ſuch offenders and redreſs of the ſaid miſrulers, to my might and power. And for the haſty execution hereof, like it your Highneſs to *addreſs* your Letters of Privy ſeal and Writs, to your officers and miniſters, to do take, and arreſt all ſuch perſons ſo noiſed or endited, of what eſtate, degree, or condition ſo ever they be, and them to commit to your [2] Tower of London, or to other your Priſons, there to abide without bail or mainprize unto the time that they be utterly tryed, and declared after the courſe of your Law.

1451, 30 H. VI.

This Letter (as well as ſome others) is a curious inſtance of the motley form of our Language, when the general uſe of it was ſtill in its Infancy — *a Sugett* — *put me in Devour* — *convenable, &c. &c.*

LETTER XII.

To my right wurſhipfull Mayſter John Paſton be yis delyv^r^yd ī haſt.

RIGHT wurſhipfull Hoſband I recom'and me to yow p'yīg yow to wete, &c. *(here follows ſome account of money received, &c.)*

As for tydyngs y^e^ Quene come in to y^is^ town on [1] Tewyſday laſt paſt aft^r^ none and abode her' tyll itt was Thurſday iij aft^r^ none and ſhe ſent aft' my Cos Elyſabeth [2] Cler' by Sharyn born to come to her and ſhe durſt not dyſabey her com'andment and come to her and when ſhe come in y^e^ Quenys p'ſens y^e^ Quene made ryght meche of her and deſyrid here to have an hoſbond y^e^ which ye ſhall know of her' aft^r^, but as for that he is nev^r^ nerrer than he was befor.

The Quene was right well pleaſid w^t^ her anſwer and reportyht of her in y^e^ beſt wyſe and ſeyth be here trowth ſhe ſey no Jantylwoman ſyn ſhe come into Norffolk y^t^ ſhe lyk^t^ bett^r^ yan ſhe doth her.

Blake

Margaret of Anjou, Queen of Henry VI. alarmed at the report of the approach of Edward, Earl of March, (Son to the Duke of York,) towards London with a great power, endeavoured to make what Friends ſhe could; and amongſt other places, on her journey for that purpoſe, viſited Norwich, Edmund de Hadham, and Jaſper of Hatfield, the King's half Brothers attending her.

Her

LETTER XV.

To my right worſhipful Maſter, John Paſton, be this delivered in haſte.

RIGHT worſhipful Huſband, I recommend me to you, praying you to weet, &c. *(here follows ſome account of money received, &c.)*

As for tidings, the Queen came into this town on [1] Tueſday laſt paſt after noon, and abode here till it was Thurſday three *(o'clock)* afternoon; and ſhe ſent after my Couſin Elizabeth [2] Clere by Sharinborn to come to her; and ſhe durſt not diſobey her commandment, and came to her; and when ſhe came in the Queen's Preſence, the Queen made right much of her, and deſired her to have an huſband, the which ye ſhall know of hereafter; but as for that he is never nearer than he was before; the Queen was right well pleaſed with her anſwer, and reporteth of her in the beſt wiſe, and ſaith, by her truth, ſhe ſaw no Gentlewoman ſince ſhe came into Norfolk, that ſhe liked better than ſhe doth her.

Her familiarity and obliging addreſs pleaſed the Gentry, and ſhows that ſhe underſtood the art of conciliating the goodwill of thoſe with whom ſhe converſed.

[1] Tueſday 18th of April. Thurſday 20th of April.

[2] Daughter of Robert Clere, Eſq. of Ormeſby.

Blake,

Blake y^e^ Bayle of Swaffh'm was here w^t^ y^e^ Kyngs 'broy^r^ and he come to me weny'g y^t^ ye had be at hom and ſeyd y^t^ y^e^ Kyngs broy^r^ deſyrid hym y^t^ he ſhuld p'y yow in his name to come to hym for he wold right fayn that ye had come to hym if ye had ben at hom', And he told me y^t^ he weſt wele y^t^ he ſhuld ſend for yow when he come to London, boy^e^ for Coſſey and other thyngs.

I p'y yow y^t^ ye woll do y^r^ coſt on me ayens Witſontyd y^t^ I may have ſomme thyng for my nekke, when y^e^ Quene was her' I borowd my Coſ: Elyſab^t^ Cleris [4] Devys for I durſt not for ſhame go w^t^ my [5] beds among ſo many [6] freſch Jantylwomen as her' wer' at y^t^ tym.

The bliſſid T'nyte have yow in his kepy'g.

Wretyn at Norwych on y^e^ fryday next befor Seynt George.

Be yowrs,

[7] M. Paſton.

8 ½ by 8 ½.

Paper Mark,
a Flower.
Pl. VIII. N° 8.

[3] Either Edmund, afterwards Earl of Richmond, Father to Henry VII. or Jaſper, Earl of Pembroke.

[4] A Device or Ornament for the neck.

[5] Necklaces of Beads, &c. appear to have been worn at this time, though ſhe either did not think her's handſome, or faſhionable enough to be put on upon this occaſion.

LET.

Blake, the Bailey of Swaffham, was here with the King's [3] Brother, and he came to me, wening that ye had been at home; and ſaid, that the King's brother deſired him that he ſhould pray you in his name to come to him, for he would right fain that ye had come to him, if ye had been at home; and he told me, that he wiſt well that he ſhould ſend for you, when he came to London, both for Coſſey and other things.

I pray you that ye will do your coſt on me againſt Whitſuntide, that I may have ſomething for my neck; when the Queen was here, I borrowed my Couſin Elizabeth Clere's [4] Device, for I durſt not for ſhame go with my [5] Beads amongſt ſo many [6] freſh Gentlewomen as here were at that time.

The bleſſed Trinity have you in his keeping.

Written at Norwich on the Friday next before Saint George.

By yours,

[7] MARGARET PASTON.

Norwich,
Friday, 21ſt of April,
1452, 30 H. VI.

[6] May not the word *freſch* mean French or foreign Gentlewomen, attendant on the Queen? though it moſt probably means, freſh, gay, or well-dreſſed or faſhionable Ladies.

[7] Margaret, Wife of John Paſton, Eſq. &c. Pl. 11, N° 20.

LETTER XVI.

To his wurchypfull Brodyr Jo'n Paſton.

RYTH wurchypfull brod[r] I recomande to yow and as for tedyng my Lord of [1] Yorke hathe take my Lord of [2] Exſat' in to hys awarde The Duke of [3] Som'ſet is ſtyll in p'ſon in warſe caſe than he was. Syr Jon Faſtolf recomande hym to yow, &c. he wyll ryde in to Norfolke ward as on Truſday and he wyll dwelle at Caſt[r] and Skrop wyth hym he ſaythe ye ar the hartyeſt kynyſmā and frynd y[t] he knowyts he wolde have yow at Mawdeby dwellyng.

I had gret cher of Byllyng be y[e] way and he told me in cownſayle wathe he ſayd to Ledam.

Ledam wulde a do hys wyſe to a mad a complent to Pryothe in y[e] ſcherhowſe of yow, and Byllyng conſallyd hym to leve and tolde Ledam ye and he wer no felawys, and ſayd to Ledam y[t] is the gyſe of yowr contre mē to ſpend alle the good they have on mē and lew'y Gownys and hors and harnes and ſo beryt owth for j wylle and at the laſte they arn but beggars

This Letter is given not only as containing ſome ſtate Anecdotes, but as exhibiting a Character of John Paſton, Eſq. from Thomas Billing, who in 1453 was created a Serjeant at Law, and in 1458 appointed King's Serjeant.

He became Chief Juſtice of England, in 1472.

[1] Richard, Duke of York.

and

LETTER XVI.

To his worſhipful Brother John Paſton.

RIGHT worſhipful Brother, I recommend (*me*) to you; and as for tidings, my Lord of [1] York hath taken my Lord of [2] Exeter into his award; the Duke of [3] Somerſet is ſtill in priſon, in worſe caſe than he was.

Sir John Faſtolf recommends him to you, &c. he will ride into Norfolk ward as on Thurſday, and he will dwell at Caiſter, and Scroop with him; he ſaith ye are the heartieſt Kinſman and Friend that he knoweth, he would have you at Mawlteby dwelling.

I had great cheer of Billing by the way, and he told me, in counſel, what he ſaid to Ledam.

Ledam would have done his wife [*endeavour*] to have made a complaint to Pryothe in the Shire houſe of you, and Billing counſelled him to leave, and told Ledam, ye and he were no Fellows, and ſaid to Ledam "it is the guiſe of your Country "men to ſpend all the Goods they have on men and livery Gowns, "and Horſe and Harneſs, and ſo bear it out for a while, and at "the laſt they are but Beggars; and ſo will ye do, I would ye

[2] Henry Holland, Duke of Exeter.

[3] Edmund Beaufort, Duke of Somerſet, was impriſoned by the Duke of York's Party in 1452, and again for a conſiderable time in 1453. He was killed at the battle of St. Albans, in 1455.

and ſo wyll ye do I wylde ye ſchull do wyll be cauſe ye ar a felaw in Grays In wer I was a felaw.

As for Paſton he ys a Swyr of Wurchyp and of gret lyvelode and I wothe he wyll not ſpend alle hys Good as onys but he ſparyt yerly C mark or jC li. he may do his Ennemy a ſcherewd turne and nev' far the warſe in hys howſholde ner the leſſe mē abowthe hym ye may not do ſo but if yt be for j ſeſun I conſayll yow not to contenu long as ye do I wulle conſalle yow to ſeke reſte wyth Paſton.

And I thankkyd Byllyng on yowr behalfe.

God have yow in hys kepyng.

Be yowr por brodyr,

11 ¾ by 6 ½.

[4] Wyllyam Paſton.

Meche odyr thyng I can telle and I had leſur, recomande me to my ſuſtr Margeth m'y Coſyn Elizabet Clyr I pray yow.

[4] A younger Son of Sir William Paſton. Pl. II. N° 21. Pl. XIV. N° 4.

LET-

" ſhould do well, becauſe ye are a Fellow of Gray's Inn, where I " was a Fellow."

" As for Paſton, he is an Eſquire of Worſhip, and of great " Livelyhood, and I wot he will not ſpend all his Goods at once, " but he ſpareth yearly an hundred marks (66*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*) or an " hundred pounds; he may do his Enemy a ſhrewd turn and " never fare the worſe in his houſehold, nor (*have*) the leſs men " about him."

" Ye may not do ſo, but if it be for one ſeaſon, I counſel you " not to continue long as ye do. I would counſel you to ſeek " reſt with Paſton."

And I thanked Billing on your behalf. God have you in his keeping.

By your poor Brother,

4 WILLIAM PASTON.

1452, or 1453,
31 or 32 H. VI.

Much other thing I can tell you, and I had leiſure; recommend me to my Siſter Margaret, and my Couſin Elizabeth Clere, I pray you.

LETTER XUIJ.

To my Maiſter Paſton.

WORSHYPFULL Sr and my gode Maiſter after dewe recomendacōn wyth alle my trewe ſ'vyce p'cedyng lyke you wete that as to nouveltees, &c. the [1] Prince ſhall be create at Wyndeſour uppon Pentecoſt Sonday. the [2] Chaun'cellr the Duc of [3] Bokyngh'm and manye othyre Lordys off aſtate p'ſent wyth the Quene.

As to my Lord [4] Yorke he abydyth aboute Yorke tille [5] Corpus Criſt feſte be paſſyd and wyth grete worſhip ys there reſſeyved. And certeyn Juſtices [6] Pryſot, Byngh'm, Portyngton and &c. be thedre for execucōn of Juſtice uppon ſuch as hafe offendended yn caus' creminall.

It ys ſeyd the Duc of [7] Excet' ys here cov'dtlye God ſende hym gode councell hereaft'.

And the Pryvee ſele ys examynyd how and yn whate maner and be whate Autorite p'vye Selys were paſſed forthe in that

[1] The Creation of Edward, Son of Henry VI. to the Principality of Wales, is fixed by ſome of our Hiſtorians to the year 1454, and by others to that of 1457. This Letter confirms it to have been in the former year, for in that year Pentecoſt or Whitſunday, fell on the 9th of June, and we are here told that that Ceremony ſhall take place on Pentecoſt Sunday, that is the next day.

Prince Edward was born in October 1453, and murdered after the battle of Tewkeſbury, in 1471.

N. B. In 1457, Whitſunday fell on the 5th of June.

[2] Richard Neville, Earl of Saliſbury, had the Great Seal delivered to him on the ſecond of April this year, he was beheaded at Pontefract, in 1460, ſoon after the battle of Wakefield.

behalf

LETTER XVII.

To my Maſter Paſton.

WORSHIPFUL Sir, and my good Maſter, after due recommendation with all my true ſervice preceding, like you weet, that as to novelties, &c. the [1] Prince ſhall be created at Windſor upon Pentecoſt Sunday, the [2] Chancellor, the Duke of [3] Buckingham, and many other Lords of eſtate, preſent with the Queen.

As to my Lord *(of)* [4] York he abideth about York till [5] Corpus Chriſti Feaſt be paſſed, and with great worſhip is there received.

And certain Juſtices [6] Pryſot, Bingham, Portington, and &c. be thither for execution of Juſtice upon ſuch as have offended in cauſes criminal.

It is ſaid, the Duke of [7] Exeter is here covertly, God ſend him good counſel hereafter.

And the Privy Seal is examined how, and in what manner, and by what Authority, privy Seals were paſſed forth in that

[3] Humphry Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, was ſlain at the battle of Northampton, in July 1460.

[4] Richard, Duke of York, had been lately appointed Protector of the Realm, and was now in Yorkſhire, making himſelf popular, by attending to thoſe ſolemnities which pleaſed the generality of the people, &c.

[5] The Feſtival of the Bleſſed Sacrament, or Corpus Chriſti, is always on the Thurſday after the Octave of Whitſunday, and in this year happened on the 20th of June.

[6] John Priſot was Chief Juſtice of the Common Pleas.
Richard Bingham, a Juſtice of the King's Bench, and John Portington, of the Common Pleas.

[7] Henry Holland, Duke of Exeter.

behalf,

behalf whych ys full innocent and ryght clere yn that mater, as it ys welle knowen.

The Frenſhmen hafe be afore the Iſles of Gerſey and G'neſſey and a grete navey of hem and v^{c} be taken and ſlayn of hem by men of the ſeyd trew Iſles, &c.

S^{r}. Edmond Mulſo ys com from the Duc of [8] Burg^{ne} and he ſeyth by hys ſ'vūnts rapport that he wolle not diſcharge the Godes of the Mrchūnts of thys land but ſo be that Juſtice be don uppon the Lord [9] Bonevyle or els that he be ſent to hym to do juſtice hȳ ſelf as he hath deſ'ved, or ſatisfaccōn be made to the value.

Yo^{r} mater is enſeled as of the thyng ye wote of.

I can no more for haſte and lak of leyſer but our Lord kepe you.

Wryt haſtly viij day of June.

I ſende a L're to Maiſt^{r} Berney to lete you ſee for the gouv'ñce yn Yorkſhyr.

[10] Bote H K. ner.

11 ½ by 5.

[8] Philip the Good, Duke of Burgundy, he died in 1467.

[9] William Lord Bonvile was beheaded, by order of Queen Margaret, after the ſecond battle of St. Alban's, in February 1460-1, though Henry VI. had granted him his life.

LET-

behalf, which is full innocent and right clear in that matter, as it is well known.

The Frenchmen have been afore the Iſles of Jerſey and Guernſey and a great Navy of them, and 500 be taken and ſlain of them by men of the ſaid true Iſles, &c.

Sir Edmund Mulſo is come from the Duke of [8] Burgundy; and he ſaith by his Servants' report, that he will not diſcharge the Goods of the Merchants of this land, but ſo be [*unleſs*] that Juſtice be done upon the Lord [9] Bonville, or elſe that he be ſent to him to do juſtice himſelf, as he hath deſerved, or ſatisfaction be made to the value.

Your matter is enſealed as of the thing ye wot of.

I can no more for haſte and lack of leiſure, but our Lord keep you. Written haſtily the 8th day of June.

I ſend a Letter to Maſter Berney to let you ſee for the Governance in Yorkſhire.

[10] Bote H R. ner.

Saturday, 8th of June,
1454, 32 H. VI.

[10] William Botener, otherwiſe Worceſter, was an attendant, &c. on Sir John Faſtolf; and for a farther account of him, ſee Letter xxv. Note [1].

He here ſigns his name in a very particular manner, inſerting H R. between *Bote* and *ner*.—Perhaps it is meant to ſhow his loyalty to King Henry. Pl. 11. N° 23.

LET-

LETTER XUIJJ.

To my welbeloved Coſyn John Paſton be this deliv,ed.

RIGHT welbeloved Coſyn I recomaund me to you latyng you wite ſuch tidings as we have.

Bleſſed be God the Kyng is wel amended and hath ben ſyn Criſtemesday, and on Seint Jones day comaunded his Awmener to ride to Caunt^{r}bury w^{t} his offryng, and comaunded the Secretarie to offre at Seint Edwards.

And on the Moneday after noon the Queen came to hī and brought my Lord [1] Prynce w^{t} her, and then he aſkid what the Princes name was, and the Queen told hī Edward, and than he hild up his hands and thankid God y^{r}of.

And he ſeid he nev^{r} knew til that tyme, nor wiſt not what was ſeid to hī, nor wiſt not where he had be whils he hath be ſeke til now, and he aſkid, who was Godfaders, and the Queen told hī, and he was wel apaid.

And ſhe told hī y^{t} the [2] Cardinal was dede, and he ſeid he knew nev^{r} y^{r}of til y^{t} tyme, and he ſeid oon of the wiſiſt Lords in this land was dede.

And

This ſhort, though curious Letter, conveys to us a very particular account of the King's Diſorder from himſelf; he mentions his total loſs of memory, which, from the circumſtances here related, appears to have commenced about October, 1453, and to have continued till Chriſtmas, 1454.

LETTER XVIII.

To my well beloved Couſin John Paſton, be this delivered.

RIGHT well beloved Couſin, I recommend me to you, letting you weet ſuch tidings as we have.

Bleſſed be God! the King is well amended, and hath been ſince Chriſtmas-day; and on Saint John's day, commanded his Almoner to ride to Canterbury with his offering, and commanded the Secretary to offer at Saint Edward's.

And on the Monday afternoon, the Queen came to him and brought my Lord [1] Prince with her, and then he aſked what the Prince's name was, and the Queen told him Edward; and then he held up his hands, and thanked God thereof.

And he ſaid, he never knew him till that time; nor wiſt not what was ſaid to him, nor wiſt not where he had been, whilſt he hath been ſick till now; and he aſked who were Godfathers, and the Queen told him, and he was well apaid [*content*.]

And ſhe told him that the [2] Cardinal was dead; and he ſaid, he knew never thereof till that time; and he ſaid, one of the wiſeſt Lords in this land was dead.

From this Letter, likewiſe, we may form a true judgement of this King's Character and Diſpoſition, as to Charity, Devotion, and Meekneſs.

[1] Prince Edward was born at Weſtminſter, in October, 1453, 32 H. VI.

[2] John Kemp, Archbiſhop of Canterbury, Cardinal, &c. died on the 22d of March, 1453.

And my Lord of [3] Wyncheſtr, and my Lord of [4] Seint Jones were w[t] hī on ye morow after Twelftheday, and he ſpeke to hē as well as ev[r] he did, and when thei come out thei' wept for joye.

And he ſeith he is in charitee w[t] all ye world, and ſo he wold al y[e] Lords were.

And now he ſeith matyns of Our Lady and eveſong and herith his Maſſe devoutly.

And Ric[d] ſhall tell yow more tidings by mouth.

I pray you recomaund me to my Lady Morley and to Maiſt[r] Prior and to my Lady Felbrigge and to my Lady Hevenyngh'm and to my Coſyn yo[r] mod[r], and to my Coſyn yo[r]. wife.

Wreten at [5] Grenewich on Thurſday after Twelftheday.

By your Coſyn,

Edmund Clere.

11 ¾ by 7.

LET-

[3] William de Wainfleet, Lord Biſhop of Wincheſter.

[4] Robert Botill, Lord Prior of Saint John's, of Jeruſalem, in Middleſex.

[5] Greenwich was at this time the reſidence of the Court, in which Edmund Clere, the Writer of this Letter, had an appointment. He was a younger Son of John Clere, by

And my Lord of [3] Wincheſter, and my Lord of [4] Saint John's, were with him on the morrow after Twelfthday, and he ſpake to them as well as ever he did; and when they came out, they wept for joy.

And he ſaith he is in Charity with all the world, and ſo he would all the Lords were.

And now he ſaith Matins of Our Lady, and Evenſong, and heareth his Maſs devoutly.

And Richard ſhall tell you more tidings by mouth.

I pray you recommend me to my Lady Morley and to Maſter Prior, and to my Lady Felbrigg, and to my Lady Hevening-ham, and to my Couſin your Mother, and to my Couſin your Wife.

Written at [5] Greenwich, on Thurſday after Twelfthday.

By your Couſin,

EDMUND CLERE.

Greenwich,
Thurſday, 10th of
January, 1454,
33 H. VI.

by Elizabeth, Daughter of Sir Philip Branch, Knight, and, by the Gift of his Mother, poſſeſſed Manors and Eſtates in Norfolk and Suffolk. Pl. III. N° 31.

This ancient Family was ſeated at Ormſby, in Norfolk.

The Spelling, &c. in this Letter, differs very little from that of modern times.

The Letter has the Impreſſion of a Roſe on the Seal. Pl. XIV. N° 5.

LETTER XIX.

To owr ryght truſty and welbelovyd frend Ser Thôs [1] Todenh'm.

RYGHT truſty and welbelovyd ffrend we gr'te you well hertely deſyryng to her' of yo[r] welfar' which we p'y God p'ſ[r]ve to yo[r] herts deſyr, and yf yt pleaſe yo[u] to her' of owr welfar', we wer in goud hale, atte y[e] makyng of y[is] lettre, p'ying yo[u] hertely y[t] ye wyll cōſide[r] owr meſſage which owr Chapleyn Mayſt[r] Robert Hoppton ſhall enforme yo[u] of.

For as God knowyth we have g'rt beſyneſſe dayly, and has had her' by for y[is] tyme, wherfor we p'y yo[u] to cōſyde[r] y[e] p'chas y[t] we have made wyth on' John Swyffhcotte ſqēr of [2] 'Lyncolnſhyr of lxxx and viij li. by yer, wher'uppon we muſt pay

This Letter appears to have been written by the Earl's Secretary, and ſigned in the ſame hand, "Ric Erle Warwyke," it has no date, but was moſt probably written before the Civil wars openly broke out, between the Houſes of York and Lancaſter. It is in the Plural Style, as We and Our, &c.

The Character at the beginning of the Letter, ſeems to be intended for Jeſu-Maria. Pl. 1. N° 9. Pl. 11. N° 15, &c. before the names.

[1] Sir Thomas Tudenham, born in 1399, was the ſecond Son of Sir Robert Tudenham, but by the death of his elder brother, became his Heir, and reſided at Oxburgh, in Norfolk. Whilſt under age, in 1417, he married Agnes, Daughter of John Wodehouſe, Eſq. and in 1436, after a full hearing of the Cauſe at Lynn, before the Chancellor of Norwich, the Prior of Lynn, &c. he was divorced from her, on proof, and on her own confeſſion, of Adultery; and had power to marry again.

She had before this left Him, and was at the time of her conviction a Nun profeſſed, at Crabhouſe, in Wiggenhall, in Norfolk.

The Cloſe of his Life was ſtill more unfortunate, for in February 1461, 1 E. IV. John, Earl of Oxford, Aubrey, his Son and heir, this Sir Thomas Tudenham, John Clopton,

LETTER XIX.

To our right trusty and well beloved Friend, Sir Thomas [1] Todenham.

RIGHT trusty, and well beloved Friend, we greet you well, heartily desiring to hear of your welfare, which we pray God preserve to your heart's desire; and if it please you to hear of our welfare, we were in good health at the making of this Letter, praying you heartily that ye will consider our message, which our Chaplain Master Robert Hopton shall inform you of; for, as God knoweth, we have great business daily, and have had here before this time, wherefore we pray you to consider the Purchase that we have made with one John Swyffh-cote [*Southcote*] an Esquire of Lincolnshire of [2] 88*l.* by the year, whereupon we must pay the last payment the Monday

Clopton, John Montgomery, and William Tyrrell, Esqrs. were arrested by John, Earl of Worcester, Constable of England, on suspicion of having received Letters from Margaret, Queen of Henry VIth; and being convicted in court, before the said Earl of Worcester, were all beheaded (except Clopton) on Tower Hill, on the 22d of February, 1461.

He dying without issue, his Sister Margaret became his heir. She married Sir Edmund Bedingfeld, Kt. whose Grandson, Sir Edmund, built the fine old House at Oxburgh, of brick, with Towers, Battlements, &c. by License, from Edward IV. dated 3d of July, 1483.

It is now a curious and venerable Mansion, possessed and inhabited by Sir Richard Bedingfield, Bart. who lately pulled down the fine old Gothic Hall.

[2] It is to be wished that this Letter had mentioned the Sum already paid, as we could then have exactly determined the Purchase money for an Estate of 88*l.* a year in those days.

pay y^e^ laſt payment y^e^ moneday nextē aftyr Seynt Martyn' day, which ſum ys cccc and lviij li. wherfor we p'y yo^u^ wyth all owr herte y^t^ ye wyll lend us x li. or twenty or whet y^e^ ſeyd Maiſt^r^ Robert wants of hys payment as we may do for yo^u^ in tym for to com, and we ſhall ſend yt you ageyn afor Newyers day wyth y^e^ g'ce of God as we ar trew [3] knyght, ffor y^r^ is nonne in yo^r^ Cuntre y^t^ we myght wryght to for truſt, ſo well as un to yo^u^ ffor as we be enformyd ye be owr well wyller and ſo we p'y yo^u^ of goud cōtynuaunce.

Wherfor' we p'y yo^u^ y^t^ ye cōſyde^r^ our entent of this mony as ye wyll y^t^ we do for yo^u^ in tym to com, as God knowyth, who have you in hys kepyng.

Wreten atte London on All Salwyn day wyth inne owr loggyng in y^e^ [4] G'y Freys wyth inne Newgate.

Nic. Erle Warwyke.

11 ½ by 8 ½.

LET-

[3] His promiſe for the repayment of the money at the time fixed, is *by his Knighthood*, a ſacred promiſe in that age of Chivalry. Sir Thomas was a man of large property, and rich in money likewiſe.

[4] The Earl of Warwick, lodged at his houſe in the Grey Fryers, when he came to London,

next after St. Martin's day *(11th of November)*, which ſum is 458*l.* wherefore we pray you with all our heart, that ye will lend us ten or twenty pounds, or what the ſaid Maſter Robert wants of his payment, as we may do for you in time for to come, and we ſhall ſend it you again afore New Year's day with the grace of God, as we are a true [3] Knight.

For there is none in your Country, that we might write to for truſt, ſo well as unto you, for, as we be informed, ye be our well willer, and ſo we pray you be of good continuance.

Wherefore we pray you, that ye conſider our intent of this money, as ye will that we do for you in time to come, as God knoweth, who have you in his keeping.

Written at London, on All Soul's day, within our Lodging in the [4] Grey Friars, within Newgate.

RICHARD Earl of WARWICK.

London,
2d of November, before
1455, 34 H. VI.

London, by the King's deſire, in February 1458, to meet the Lords of the oppoſite Party on amicable Terms. Pl. 1. N° 7.

The Seal of this Letter is of red wax, on which is the Bear and Ragged Staff, the Badge of this Nobleman, with his Motto, the whole very fair and curious, and around it is a braid of twine. Pl. XIV. N° 6.

LET-

LETTER XX.

To the worſhipfull and my right truſty Frende John Paſton Squyer.

WORSHIPFULL and my right truſty and welbeloved frende I grete you well and for aſmuch as I have purchaſed of the worſhipfull and my welbeloved frende [1] Priour of Walſyngham ij maners in lityl Snoryng w[t] thap'ptenants in the Counte of Norff' which maners be cleped Bowles and Walcotes I deſir and hertily praye yow that ye woll ſhewe to me and my Feoffes in my name your good will and favour ſo that I may by your frendſhip the more peaſably rejoy my forſaid purchaſe.

And more ou[r] I praye you to yeve credens in this mater to my welbeloved Chapellayn S[r]. John Suthwell berer of thes my Lett', and in the ſame mater to be my feithfull frende as my gret truſt is in you wherin ye ſhall do to me a ſingular pleaſir and cauſe me to bee to yow right good Lord which ſumtyme ſhall be to you available by the grace of God who p'ſerve you and ſende you welfare.

Yoven

This Letter is written by the Secretary, and ſigned by the Earl himſelf; it has no date of the year, but was certainly written before 1460, for in that year the Earl pre-

ſented

LETTER XX.

To the worſhipful, and my right truſty Friend, John Paſton, Eſquire.

WORSHIPFUL, and my right truſty and well beloved Friend, I greet you well, and foraſmuch as I have purchaſed, of the worſhipful and my well beloved friend, [1] Prior of Walſingham, two Manors in Little Snoring with the Appurtenances in the County of Norfolk, which Manors be cleped [*called*] Bowle's and Walcote's.

I deſire and heartily pray you, that ye will ſhew to me, and my Feoffees in my name, your good will and favour; ſo that I may by your Friendſhip the more peaceably enjoy my aforeſaid purchaſe.

And moreover I pray you to give credence in this matter to my well beloved Chaplain Sir John Southwell, bearer of this my Letter.

And in the ſame matter to be my faithful Friend, as my great truſt is in you; wherein ye ſhall do to me a ſingular pleaſure, and cauſe me to be to you right good Lord, which ſome time ſhall be to you available by the grace of God, who preſerve you and ſend you welfare.

ſented Richard Cheyne, to the Rectory of Little Snoring, which was an appurtenant to the Manors, and which, when this Letter was written, had been lately purchaſed.

[1] Thomas Hunt, was Prior of Walſingham, from 1437 to 1474.

Yoven under my ſignet at [2] Midilh'm the xxiij day of Auguſt.

RICHARD Erl of WARREWIK. } R. Warrewyk.

11 ½ by 5.

Paper Mark.
Croſs Keys.
Pl. VIII. N° 9.

LET-

[2] The Lordſhip of Middleham, in Yorkſhire, came to the family of Nevile, by the marriage of Robert de Nevile, with Mary, the Daughter and Co-heir of Ralph Fitz-Randulph.

The Seal of the Letter is of red wax, and has the Bear, and Motto of the Earl. Pl. XIV. N° 6.

This and the preceding Letter, though they contain nothing curious in themſelves, yet deſerve a place in this collection, as being perhaps the only private Letters extant of this Nobleman, who, from his great Power and Authority, was called, the King Maker; and from his large Poſſeſſions and magnificent Style of Living, the great Earl of Warwick.

He was the Son and Heir of Richard Nevile, Earl of Saliſbury, and married Anne, Daughter of Richard de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, who on the death of Anne, Counteſs

Given under my Signet at [2] Middleham, the 23d day of Auguſt.

RICHARD Earl of WARWICK. } R. WARWICK.

Middleham,
23d of Auguſt,
Before 1460, 38 H. VI.

Counteſs of Warwick, (the only Child of her Brother Henry, Duke of Warwick) in her infancy, became Heir to the Honours and Inheritance of her Family.

Richard, in right of his Lady, aſſumed the Title of Earl of Warwick, and in 1449 obtained a Confirmation of it from Henry VI. Pl. 1. N° 7.

In 1460, he ſucceeded his Father as Earl of Saliſbury.

This valiant and ambitious Nobleman was killed in the battle of Barnet, on Eaſter-day 1471, moſt furiouſly fighting againſt King Edward IV. whoſe advancement to the throne he had ſo vigorouſly and warmly ſupported, and in whoſe cauſe he had formerly ſo often fought.

LETTER XXJ.

To our right truſty and welbeloved John Paſton Eſquire.

The Duc of York.

RIGHT truſty and welbeloved We grete yow hertily wel and of your benivolence aide and tendre love by yow at thinſtance and at y^e^ reverence of Us to our Right truſty and welbeloved in God The Prio^r^ and Convent of the hows of Our Lady of Walſingham of our Patronage in ſuche mat^r^es as they had adoo for c^r^tain lyvelood by tham claymed to belonge unto ye ſeid hows favorably and tendrely ſhewed as hertily as we can we thank yow, and deſire and pray yow of your good continuance.

And as fer as right lawe and good conſcience wol to have in favorable recom'endacion ſuche p'ſonnes as been or ſhal bee cō-mitted to take poſſeſſion and ſaiſon in y^e^ name, and to ye uſe of our ful worſhipful Nepueu Therl of Warrewic in and of y^e^ Manoirs

This Letter of the Duke of York, written by his Secretary, with his title at the top and in the regal Style, was moſt probably ſent when he was Protector of the Kingdom in 1454, or 1455.

It is ſealed on red wax, with his own ſignet, having the Arms of France and England quarterly, and a label of three points argent, charged with nine torteauxes. Pl. XIV. N° 10.

The

LETTER XXI.

To our right truſty and well beloved John Paſton, Eſquire.

The Duke of York.

RIGHT truſty and well beloved, We greet you heartily well. And of your benevolence, aid, and tender love by you, at the inſtance and at the reverence of Us, to our right truſty and well beloved in God, The Prior and Convent of the Houſe of Our Lady of Walſingham, of our Patronage, in ſuch matters as they had ado [*buſineſs*] for certain Livelyhood, by them claimed to belong unto the ſaid Houſe, favourably and tenderly ſhewed, as heartily as We can, We thank you. And deſire and pray you of your good continuance.

And as far as right, law, and good conſcience will, to have in favourable recommendation ſuch Perſons as *(have)* been, or ſhall be, committed to take poſſeſſion and ſeiſin, in the name, and to the uſe of our full worſhipful Nephew, The Earl of Warwick, in and of the Manors and Lordſhips of Bowle's and

The purport of the firſt part of it, is to thank J. Paſton, for ſome ſervices done by him, in regard to ſome diſputes, which the Prior and Convent of Walſingham had had, relative to ſome Eſtates.

The Orthography of this and of the Earl of Warwick's Letter, differs very little from the modern mode of Spelling.

Manoirs and Lordeſhips of Boules and Walcots w^t yappertenauntes in litel Snoring in ye Countee of Norff' as our grete truſt is unto yow.

And God have yow in his keping.

Yeven undre our Signet at our Caſtel of Sandhall y^e xix day of Auguſt.

R. York.

12 by 4.

LET-

Richard Plantagenet, Duke of York, &c. Father of Edward IV. Protector of the Kingdom, under Henry VI. was ſlain, when very near the ſummit of his wiſhes, the Throne, in the battle of Wakefield, in December 1460, having been imprudently tempted out of his Caſtle of Sandal, by the Menaces and Defiances of Queen Margaret.

He

and Walcote's with the Appurtenances in Little Snoring, in the County of Norfolk, as our great truſt is unto you. And God have you in his keeping.

Given under our Signet, at our Caſtle of Sandal, the 19th day of Auguſt.

Sandal Caſtle,
19th of Auguſt,
1454, or 1455,
32 or 33 H. VI.

He married Cecily, Daughter of Ralph Nevile, Earl of Weſtmoreland, and Siſter to Richard Nevile, Earl of Saliſbury, Father of the Earl of Warwick.

The Signature is copied from one ſubſcribed to an Indenture between him and Sir John Faſtolf, on depoſiting ſome Jewels with Sir John for a Loan of Money, dated at Fodringey, 18th of December, 1452, 31 H. VI. Pl. 1. N° 4.

LET-

LETTER XXIJ.

To oure right truſti and welbelovid John Paſton eſquier.

The Ducheſſe of Norff'.

RIGHT truſti and welbelovid we grete you hertili weel and for as muche as it is thought right neceſſarie for divers cauſes y^{t} my Lord have at this tyme in the p'lement ſuche p'ſones as longe unto him and be of his menyall S'vaunts wherin we conceyve yo^{r} good will and diligence ſhal be right expedient. We hertili deſire and pray you that at the contemplacion of thiſe oure L'res as our ſpecial truſt is in you ye wil geve and applie yo^{r} voice unto our right welbelovid Coſin and S'vaunts John Howard and Syr Roger Chambirlayn to be Knyghts of the Shire exorting all ſuche othir as be your wiſdom ſhal now be behovefull to the good exployte and concluſion of the ſame.

And in yo^{r} faithful attenda^{u}nce and trewe devoyre in this partie ye ſhal do unto my Lord and us a ſingler' pleaſir and cauſe us herafter to thank you therfore as ye ſhal holde you right weel content and agreid with the Grace of God who have you eve' in his keping.

Wreten in Framlyngham Caſtel the viij day of Jun'.

11 ½ by 7.

LET-

I have placed this and the following Letter together, as they both contain inſtructions from the Nobility, for returning Perſons of their Nomination as Knights of the Shire.

We have here a true picture of the dependency of the Houſe of Commons on that of the Lords.

Neither

LETTER XXII.

To our right truſty and welbeloved John Paſton, Eſquire.

The Ducheſs of Norfolk.

RIGHT truſty and well beloved, we greet you heartily well; and for as much as it is thought right neceſſary for diverſe cauſes, that my Lord have at this time in the parliament ſuch perſons as belong unto him, and be of his menial Servants; wherein we conceive your good will and diligence ſhall be right expedient; we heartily deſire and pray you, that at the contemplation of theſe Our Letters, as Our ſpecial truſt is in you, ye will give and apply your voice unto our right welbeloved Couſin, and Servants John Howard, and Sir Roger Chamberlayn, to be knights of the Shire; exhorting all ſuch others as by your wiſdom ſhall now be behoveful, to the good exploit and concluſion of the ſame.

And in your faithful attendance, and true devoir in this part, ye ſhall do unto my Lord and Us a ſingular pleaſure, and cauſe us hereafter to thank you therefore, as ye ſhall hold you right well content and agreed with the grace of God, who have you ever in his keeping.

Written at Framlingham Caſtle, the 8th day of June.

Framlingham Caſtle,
8th of June.

Neither of the Letters have any Date of the Year.

Autograph of Ellenor, Ducheſs of Norfolk, Query. Pl. 11. N° 16.

LETTER XXIX.

To Owr Welbeloved John Paſton.

RIGHT welbeloved I grete yow well and as towchyng for Tydyngs I can none ſavyng that my Lord of Norff' met w^t my Lord of York at Bury on thurſday and there were to gedre til ffriday ix of the Clokke and than they dep'ted and there a Gentilman of my Lord of York toke unto a Yeman of myn John Deye a Tokene and a Sedell of my Lords entent whom he wold have Knyghtts of the Shyre and I ſende you a Sedell cloſed of their Names in this ſame Lett^r wherfore me thynkith wel do to p'forme my Lords entent.

Wretyn the xviij° day of Octobr at Wynche.

Orenford.

Com. Norff' { Sr. WILL'M CHAMBIRLAYN. / HENR' GREY. }

11 ½ by 4 ¾.

Part of a Bull's Head. Query?
Paper Mark. Pl. ix. N° 10.

LET-

The Contents of this Letter plainly point out to us, that the Election of the Members of the Houſe of Commons, even for Counties, was in this diſtant age influenced by the great and leading men of the time.

We have here the cleareſt evidence that Richard Plantagenet, Duke of York, and John Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, at their meeting at Bury St. Edmunds in Suffolk, determined who ſhould be returned Knights of the Shire for the County of Norfolk, and ſent their Inſtructions accordingly.

John

LETTER XXIII.

To our Well beloved John Paſton.

RIGHT well beloved, I greet you well; and as touching for Tidings I can none, ſaving that my Lord of Norfolk met with my Lord of York at Bury on Thurſday, and there were together till Friday 9 of the clock, and then they departed; and there a Gentleman of my Lord of York took, unto a Yeoman of mine, John Deye, a Token and a Sedell [*Schedule*] of my Lord's intent, whom he would have knights of the Shire, and I ſend you a Sedell cloſed [*Schedule encloſed*] of their names in this ſame Letter, wherefore me thinketh *(it)* well done to perform my Lord's intent, &c.

Written the 18th day of October at Winch.

OXENFORD.

County of Norfolk, {Sir WILLIAM CHAMBERLAYN. HENRY GREY.}

Winch, in Norfolk,
18th of October.
Before 1455.

John de Vere, Earl of Oxford, at this time, ſeems to have been a Friend to the Duke of York, this Letter therefore, muſt have been written previous to the Duke's profeſſed deſign upon the Throne; for in that Conteſt, the Earl ſided with the Houſe of Lancaſter, and being taken, was beheaded in 1461, the firſt year of Edward IV. when he was about 55 years old. He married Elizabeth, the Daughter and Heir of Sir John Howard, knight, who had poſſeſſions at Winch, in Norfolk. Pl. 1. N° 8.

The Names of the two Candidates to be elected, are written on a Schedule, or ſlip of paper, which is faſtened to the Original Letter by a piece of wax.

LETTER XXJU.

Unto my worſhipfull and welbeloved Coſyn John Paſton be this L're delivred in haſt.

RIGHT worſhipfull and entierly welbeloved Sir I recommaunde me unto you deſiring hertly to her' of your welfar'.

Furthermor' lettyng you wete as for ſuch tydinges as we have here ſuch thre Lordes be dede the Duke of [1] Somerſet the Erle of [2] Northombrelonde and the Lord [3] Clyfford and as for any other men of name I knowe noon ſave only [4] Quotton of Cammbrigeſhir'.

As for any oy[r] Lordes many of theym be hurt and as for Fenyngley he lyveth and fareth well as fer as I can enquere, &c.

And as for any grete Multytude of people y[t] ther was as we can tell ther was at moſt ſlayn [5] (x) vi ſcore. And as for the Lordes

The Account in this Letter refers to the firſt Battle of St. Alban's, which Rapin ſays was fought on the 31ſt of May, 1455, 33 H. VI. but which all our other Hiſtorians place on the 23d of May.

This Letter certainly fixes it before the 25th (Whitſunday) therefore it was moſt probably fought on Friday the 23d.

Hiſtory informs us that Humphrey Stafford, Earl of Stafford, and eldeſt Son and Heir of the Duke of Buckingham, died of the wounds he received in this battle, when this Letter therefore was written, he was not dead.

And we are told by our Hiſtorians that the King loſt 5000 or 8000 men, though Hollingſhead thinks it ſhould be only 800, whereas this Letter ſays only Six ſcore, how this

LETTER XXIV.

Unto my worſhipful and well beloved Couſin, John Paſton, be this Letter delivered in haſte.

RIGHT worſhipful and entirely well beloved Sir, I recommend me unto you, deſiring heartily to hear of your welfare.

Furthermore letting you weet, as for ſuch Tidings as we have here, ſuch [*theſe*] three Lords be dead, the Duke of [1] Somerſet, the Earl of [2] Northumberland, and the Lord [3] Clifford; and as for any other men of name, I know none, ſave only [4] Quotton [*Cotton*] of Cambridgeſhire.

As for any other Lords, many of them be hurt, and as for Feningley he liveth, and fareth well, as far as I can enquire, &c.

And as for any great Multitude of people that there was, as we can tell, there was at moſt ſlain [5] (ten) ſix ſcore; and as for the

this prodigious difference in numbers can be reconciled, I own I cannot form any conjecture.

[1] Edmund Beaufort, Duke of Somerſet, &c. he was ſome years Regent of Normandy, and in this Battle commanded the Royal Army.

[2] Henry Percy, Earl of Northumberland, had been a favourite with Henry V. and continued a loyal and faithful Subject to his Son Henry VI. when ſlain he was about 60 years of age.

[3] Thomas Clifford, Lord Clifford.

[4] William Quotton or Cotton, of Landwade, in Cambridgeſhire, was Vice Chamberlain to Henry VI.

[5] In the Original Letter the x is ſtruck out, and vj placed after it in the ſame line.

Lords

Lordes that wer' w[t] the Kyng they and her men wer pilled and ſpoyled out of all their harneys and horſes and as for what Rule we ſhall have yit I wote nett ſave only ther be made newe certayn Officers.

My Lord of [6] Yorke Conſtabil of Englande, my Lord of [7] Warweke is made Captayn of Calyes, My Lord [8] Burgchier is made Treaſorer of Englande and as yit other Tydinges have I none.

And as for our ſoverayn Lorde thanked be God he hathe no grete harme.

No more to you at this tyme but I pray you ſend this Lettyr to my Maiſtreſſe Paſton when ye have ſene hit, preyng you to Remembre my Syſtir Margrete ageyne the tyme y[t] ſhe ſhal be made nonne.

Written at Lamehith on [9] Witſonday, &c.

By your Coſyn,

[10] John Crane.

11 ½ by 8 ¼.

Paper Mark.
A Pair of Shears.
Pl. IX. N° 11.

LET.

[6] Richard Plantagenet, Duke of York.
[7] Richard Nevile, Earl of Warwick.
[8] Henry Bourchier, Viſcount Bourchier.

Lords that were with the King, they and their men were pilled [*plundered*] and ſpoiled out of all their Harneſs and Horſes; and as for what Rule we ſhall have yet I weet not, ſave only there be made new certain Officers.

My Lord of [6] York, Conſtable of England; my Lord of [7] Warwick is made Captain of Calais; my Lord [8] Burgchier is made Treaſurer of England; and as yet other Tidings have I none.

And as for Our Sovereign Lord, thanked be God, he hath no great harm.

No more to you at this time, but I pray you ſend this Letter to my Miſtreſs Paſton, when ye have ſeen it; praying you to remember my Siſter Margaret againſt the time that ſhe ſhall be made a Nun.

Written at Lamehith [*Lambeth*] on [9] Whitſunday, &c.

By your Couſin,

[10] JOHN CRANE.

Lambeth,
Whitſunday,
25th of May, 1455.
33 H. VI.

9 Whitſunday in 1445 fell on the 25th of May.

10 The Family of Crane flouriſhed at this time in Norfolk and Suffolk. See Letter xi.

LET-

LETTER XXII.

To Will'm [1] Worceſter be this L're delyvred in haſt.

SR. I recomaunde me to yow and as for tydyngs ye may enforme myn Mayſtr ther' is non but that he hath knowleche of but that the Kyng the Quene and the Prynce remeven to Hertford to morwen wt ought faute, myn Lord [2] York to the Fryres at Ware myn Lord [3] Warwyk to Huneſdon the Erle [4] Salyſburye to Rye and there they ſhall abyde to tyme the [5] p'lem't be gynne.

The Duk [6] Buk is come inne and ſworn that he ſhalbe rewled and draw the lyne wt theym and ther to he and his Brethern ben bounde by reconyſaunce in notable ſum'es to abyde the ſame.

The Erle of [7] Wylts ſent to the Lordes from a place of his called Peterfeld a L're deſyring to know if he ſhuld come and a byde

This Letter, written in the beginning of June, gives a plain narrative of the State of Affairs reſpecting both Parties, immediately after the firſt battle of St. Alban's, which was fought on the 23d of May, 1455.

[1] William Worceſter, the Son of William de Worceſter, and Elizabeth, the Daughter of Thomas Botoner, was born at Briſtol, about the year 1415, 3 H. V. was educated at Oxford, &c. at the expence of Sir John Faſtolf, Kt. with whom he afterwards lived at Caiſter in Norfolk, and to whom he was Eſquire, Hiſtorian, and Executor. He ſometimes ſtyled himſelf William Botoner, and at other times William Botoner, al's Worceſter.

LETTER XXV.

To William [1] Worceſter be this Letter delivered in haſte.

SIR, I recommend me to you, and as for Tidings ye may inform mine Maſter, that for new there is none but that he hath knowledge of.

But that the King, the Queen and the Prince, remove to Hertford tomorrow without fault; my Lord of [2] York to the Fryers at Ware; my Lord of [3] Warwick to Hunſdon; the Earl of [4] Saliſbury to Rye; and there they ſhall abide to the time the [5] Parliament begins.

The Duke of [6] Buckingham is come in, and ſworn that he ſhall be ruled, and draw the line with them; and thereto he and his Brothers be bound by recognizance in notable ſums to abide the ſame.

The Earl of [7] Wiltſhire ſent to the Lords, from a place of his called Petersfield, a Letter deſiring to know if he ſhould come,

He was a man of great application to Learning, verſed in various Sciences, and indefatigable in the ſtudy of the Antiquities of this kingdom.

He wrote many Works, and was alive in 1480.

[2] Richard Plantagenet, Duke of York.

[3] Richard Nevile, Earl of Warwick.

[4] Richard Nevile, Earl of Saliſbury.

[5] The Parliament was ſummoned to meet on Wedneſday, 9th of July, 1455.

[6] Humphrey Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, &c. ſlain at Northampton in 1460.

[7] James Butler, Earl of Wiltſhire, Son and Heir of James Butler, Earl of Ormond.

byde a bought the Kynges p'ſone as he dede be fore and if he ſhuld not than that they wold lycence hym to goon in to Erland and leve there upon his landes, &c. and before this don the Lordes were advyſed to have made hym to don as the Duk Buk hath don and no more but what that wolle falle now y'of no man can telle as yet.

The Baron of [8] Dudley is in the Towre what ſhal come of hym God wote. The Erle of [9] Dorſete is in warde w^t the Erle of Warr'.

Hit was ſeyd for ſothe that Harp'e and ij other of the Kynges [10] Chamb^r were confedered to have ſteked the Deuk York in the Kynges Chamb^r but hit was not ſo for they have clered theym y^r of.

But London upon the ſame tale areyſen and every man to harneys on Corpus Xpi even and moche a doo y^r e was.

S^r. Will'm Oldhall a bydeth no lenger in Seyntwery than the Chef Juge come for that tyme he ſhal goo at large and ſewe all his maters himſelf, &c.

The Baron Dudley hath appeched many men but what they ben as yet we can not wete. S^r. Phillyp Wentworth was in the feld and bare the Kynges Standard and keſt hit down and fled, myn Lord [11] Norff' ſeyth he ſhal be hanged therfore and ſo' is he worthy, he is in Suff' now he der not come abought the Kynge.

[8] —— Sutton, Baron Dudley.

9 Henry Beaufort, Earl of Dorſet, Son and Heir of the late Duke of Somerſet.

He is here ſtyled only earl of Dorſet, though, by the death of his Father, at the battle of St. Alban's, he was now Duke of Somerſet, &c.

Edmond

and abide about the King's Perſon as he did before, and if he ſhould not, then that they would licenſe him to go into Ireland, and live there upon his lands, &c.

And before this done, the Lords were adviſed to have made him to do as the Duke of Buckingham hath done and no more; but what that will fall now thereof, no man can tell as yet.

The Baron of [8] Dudley is in the Tower, what ſhall come of him God wot.

The Earl of [9] Dorſet is in ward with the Earl of Warwick.

It was ſaid forſooth, that Harper and two other of the King's [10] Chamber, were confederated to have ſticked [*ſtabbed*] the Duke of York in the King's Chamber, but it was not ſo, for they have cleared them thereof.

But London upon the ſame tale ariſen, and every man to harneſs on Corpus Chriſti even *(5th of June)* and much ado there was.

Sir William Oldhall abideth no longer in Sanctuary than *(till)* the Chief Juſtice come; for (*at*) that time he ſhall go at large and ſue all his matters himſelf, &c.

The Baron Dudley hath impeached many men; but what they be, as yet we cannot weet.

Sir Philip Wentworth was in the Field, and bore the King's Standard, and caſt it down and fled; my Lord of [11] Norfolk ſaith, he ſhall be hanged therefore, and ſo is he worthy; he is in Suffolk now, he dares not come about the King.

[10] Grooms of the King's Chamber.

[11] John Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, he died in 1461.

Edmond Stendale was w^t^ Wenlok y^re^ in the feld and ffowly hurt.

[12] Fylongley is at home at his owen place w^t^ his wyf and ſhal doe ryght weel, but we have a greet loſſe of his abſence this terme for hit wole be longe er he come this terme I am a ferde.

Alle the Lordes that dyed at the Jorney arn beryed at Seynt Albones.

Other thinges ben non here but ye ſhal ſen' by Thom's Scales L're the rewle of the Frenſhemen, &c.

God ſpede us weel in our matres this terme I p'ye to God who have yow in his kepyng, &c.

[13] W. B.

11 ½ by 8 ½.

Paper Mark.
A Bull.
Pl. IX. N° 10.

[12] He appears to have been a Lawyer, and it ſeems as if he had been wounded in the battle of St. Alban's.

LETTER XXXJ.

Unto my mooſt faitfull Brethern John Bokkyng and William Worceſtr' and to eyther of theym.

WORSHIPFULL S^r^. and my moſt hertely and beſt beloved Brother I recommaund me unto you in more loly wiſe than I can other thenk or write, and w^t^ al my f^r^vice

and

Edmund Stendale was with Wenlock there in the field, and fouly hurt.

[12] Fylongley is at home at his own place with his wife, and ſhall do right well, but we have a great loſs of his abſence this term, for it will be long ere he come this term, I am afraid.

All the Lords that died at the Journey [*Battle*] are buried at Saint Alban's.

Other things be none here, but ye ſhall ſee by Thomas Scales' Letter the rule of the Frenchmen, &c.

God ſpeed us well in our matters this term, I pray to God, who have you in his keeping, &c.

[13] W. B.

London,
June 1455.
33 H. VI.

[13] The Writer W. B.
Moſt probably was brought up to the law. Pl. 11. N° 27.

LETTER XXVI.

Unto my moſt faithful Brethren, John Bocking, and William Worceſter, and to either of them.

WORSHIPFUL Sir, and my moſt heartily and beſt beloved Brother, I recommend me unto you in more lowly wiſe than I can either think or write; and with all my ſervice and

true

and trewe herte thank you of your gentill L'res full brotherly written unto me at mony tymes of old and eſpiall of late tyme paſſed. And trwly brother I thank Almyghty God of your welfare of the which the berer of this my pour L'r cʳtified me of, &c.

And Sʳ. as touchyng al manʳ of newe tithinges I knoo well ye are averous, truly the day of makyng of this L'r ther wer' nonn newe, but ſuche I herd of ye ſhalbe ſʳved wᵗ all.

As for the firſt the Kyng Our Souvʳain Lord and all his trwe Lordes ſtand in hele of there bodies but not all at hertes ees as we amonges other mervell, ij dayes afore the writyng of this L'r there was langage betwene my Lordes of [1] Warr and [2] Cromwell afore the Kyng, in ſomoch as the Lord Cromwell wold have excuſed hym ſelf of all the ſteryng or moevyng of the male journey of Seynt Albones, of the whiche excuſe makyng my Lord of Warr' had knolege and in haſt waſſe wᵗ the Kyng and ſware by his Othe that the Lord Cromwell ſaid not trouth but that he was begynner of all yᵗ journey at Seynt Albones, and ſo betwene my ſaid ij Lords of Warr' and Cromwell ther is at yⁱˢ day grete grugyng in ſomoch as the Erle of [3] Shrouesbury hath loged hym at yᵉ Hoſpitall of Seynt [4] James beſide the [5] Mewes be the Lord Cromwells deſire for his ſauf gard.

This Letter ſhows us, how the Duke of York's Party endeavoured to throw the blame of the battle at St. Alban's upon each other; and that the Parliament accuſed the Duke of Somerſet, Thomas Thorpe, a Baron of the Exchequer, and William Joſeph, Eſquire, as the cauſe of it, they having ſecreted (as it was ſaid) from the King, a conciliatory Letter ſent for him by the Duke of York. The unſettled State of the Nation, and the violent commotions of the times, are plainly pointed out.

[1] Richard Nevile, Earl of Warwick.

And

true heart thank you of your gentle Letters, full brotherly written unto me at many times of old, and in eſpecial of late time paſſed. And truly brother, I thank Almighty God of your welfare, of the which the Bearer of this my poor Letter certified me of, &c.

And Sir, as touching all manner of new Tidings, I know well ye are avarous [*eagerly deſirous*]; truly the day of making of this Letter, there were none new, but ſuch *(as)* I heard of, ye ſhall be ſerved withal.

As for the firſt, the King, Our Sovereign Lord, and all his true Lords ſtand in health of their bodies, but not all at Hearts eaſe as we.

Amongſt other marvel, two days afore the writing of this Letter there was a language between my Lords of [1] Warwick and [2] Cromwell afore the King; inſomuch as the Lord Cromwell would have excuſed himſelf of all the ſtirring or moving of the male journey [*battle*] of St. Alban's; of the which excuſe making, my Lord Warwick had knowledge, and in haſte was with the King, and ſwore by his Oath, that the Lord Cromwell ſaid not truth, but that he was the Beginner of all that journey at St. Alban's; and ſo between my ſaid two Lords of Warwick and Cromwell there is at this day great grudging, inſomuch as, the Earl of [3] Shrewſbury hath lodged him at the Hoſpital of St. [4] James beſide the [5] Mews, by the Lord Cromwell's deſire, for his ſafe guard.

[2] Henry Stanhope, Lord Cromwell.

[3] John Talbot, Earl of Shrewſbury, (ſon of the famous General John Talbot, Earl of Shrewſbury,) was Lord Treaſurer in 1456, and fell in the battle of Northampton, in 1460, fighting for the Houſe of Lancaſter.

[4] Now St. James's Palace.

[5] A Place for the keeping of Hawks, now the Royal Stables.

And alſo all my Lord of Warr' men my Lord of York men and alſo my Lord of Saleſbury men goo w^t harnes and in harnes w^t ſtrang wepon' and have ſtuffed their Lordes Barges full of wepon dayly unto Weſtm^r. And the day of makyng of this L'r ther was a p'clamacion made in the Chaunc'ie on the Kyngs behalf that noman ſhuld nether bere wepon ner were harnes defenſible, &c.

Alſo the day afore the makyng of this L'r ther paſſed a bill both by the Kyng Lords and Coēs puttyng Thorp Joſēp and my Lord of Som'ſ^t in all the defaute be the which bill all man^r of Actions that ſhuld growe to any p'ſon or p'ſones for any offenſes, at y^t journey doon in any man^r of wiſe ſhuld be extynt and voide, affermyng all thing doon there well doon and nothing doon there, nev^r after this tyme to be ſpoken of, to the which bill mony a man groged full ſore nowe it is paſſed.

And if I myght be recom'aunded unto my ſp'all Maiſt^r and youres w^tall lolines and trewe f^rvice I beſeech you hertely as I can.

And alſo to my brethern Th Upon LodoWick of Pole William Lynd Calyn and John Merchall.

No more but our Lorde have you both in his p'petuell kepyng.

Writen at London on Seynt Margarete Even in haſt and aft^r y^s is rede and underſtonden I p'y you bren or breke it for I am loth to write any thing of any Lord but I mooſt neds ther is no thing elles to write. Amen.

Your awn,

[6]Y. Wyndeſore.

11 ½ by 8 ½.

The impreſſion on the Seal of this Letter is a Goat, but Q? Pl. XIV. N° 7.

[6] Autograph. Pl. 111. N° 32.

And alſo all my Lord of Warwick's men, my Lord of York's men, and alſo my Lord of Saliſbury's men, go with harneſs, and in harneſs, with ſtrange weapons; and have ſtuffed their Lords Barges full of weapons daily unto Weſtminſter.

And the day of making of this Letter there was a Proclamation made in the Chancery on the King's behalf; that no man ſhould neither bear weapon nor wear harneſs defenſible, &c.

Alſo the day afore the making of this Letter, there paſſed a Bill both by the King, Lords, and Commons, putting Thorp, Joſeph, and my Lord of Somerſet in all the default, by the which Bill, all manner of actions that ſhould grow to any perſon or perſons, for any offences at that journey done, in any manner of wiſe ſhould be extinct and void, affirming all things done there, well done; and nothing done there never after this time to be ſpoken of; to the which Bill many a man grudged full ſore now it is paſſed.

And if [*that*] I might be recommended, unto my ſpecial Maſter and yours, with all lowlineſs and true ſervice, I beſeech you *(as)* heartily as I can.

And alſo to my Brethren Th. Upton, Lodowick of Pole, William Lynd Calyn [*Lincoln*] and John Marſhall.

No more, but our Lord have you both in his perpetual keeping.

Written at London on Saint Margaret's Even in haſte; and after this is read and underſtood, I pray you burn or break [*tear*] it, for I am loath to write any thing of any Lord, but I muſt needs, there is nothing elſe to write. Amen.

Your own,

London, Sunday,
St. Margaret's Day,
20th of July, 1455, 33 H. VI.

6 HENRY WINDSOR.

LETTER XXXIX.

To my right worſhipfull Maiſt' John Paſton at Norwiche be yis delyu^red.

PLEASE it your Maiſterſhip to wete *(here follows an account of ſome Law Buſineſs, &c.)*

Here be many m^rvaylous tales of thynggs that ſhall falle yis next moneth as it is ſeyd for it is talked yat oon Dokto^r Grene a Preeſt hath kalked and reporteth yat byfore Seynt Andreu day next comyng ſhall be ye gretteſt bataill y^t was ſith ye bataill of [1] Shrewiſbury and it ſhall falle bytwene ye biſshoppes Inne of Saleſbury and Weſtm^r Barres and y^re ſhall deye vij Lords whereof iij ſhuld be Biſshoppes althis and meche more is talked and rep'ted I truſt to God it ſhall not falle ſo!

Alſo y^r is gret varyance bytwene ye Erll of [2] Devenſhire and ye Lord [3] Bonvyle as hath be many day and meche debat is like to growe y^rby for on thurſday at nyght laſt paſſed ye Erll of Denſhyres [4] ſone and heir come w^t lx men of Armes to Radfords place

This Letter ſeems to have been written on the 28th of October, 1455, as from the latter part of it (though imperfect) it appears that the King was at Hertford; reported to be ſick again; and under the direction of the Lords of York, Warwick, and Saliſbury, &c.

All which agrees with our hiſtorical accounts of this period.

[1] The battle of Shrewſbury was fought on the 22d of July, 1403, 4 H. IV. the Percies being the leaders of the Malecontents, who were routed by the King's Army.

The Predictions, however of Dr Grene were not fulfilled, but Prophecies, in this credulous age, had great influence over the minds of the People; and there having been already

LETTER XXVII.

To my right worſhipful Maſter, John Paſton, at Norwich, be this delivered.

PLEASE it your Maſterſhip to weet *(here follows an account of ſome Law Buſineſs, &c.)*

Here be many marvellous tales of things that ſhall fall, this next month, as it is ſaid; for it is talked, that one Doctor Grene a Prieſt hath kalked [*calculated*] and reporteth, that before St. Andrew's day next coming, ſhall be the greateſt battle that was ſince the battle of [1] Shrewſbury, and it ſhall fall between the Biſhop's Inn of Saliſbury and Weſtminſter Bars; and there ſhall die ſeven Lords, whereof three ſhould be Biſhops.

All this and much more is talked and reported, I truſt to God it ſhall not fall ſo!

Alſo there is great variance between the Earl of [2] Devonſhire, and the Lord [3] Bonvile, as hath been many day, and much debate is like to grow thereby; for on Thurſday *(23d of October)* at night laſt paſſed, the Earl of Devonſhire's [4] Son and Heir came, with ſixty men of arms, to Radford's Place in Devon-

already ſome civil Conteſts, they were eaſily induced to believe, that others might be foreſeen and foretold.

[2] Thomas Courtney, Earl of Devonſhire, was beheaded by order of Edward IV. immediately after the battle of Towton, in 1461.

[3] William Bonvile, was created Lord Bonvile, in 1449, and was beheaded, by order of Queen Margaret, after the battle at Barnard's heath, near St. Alban's, in February, 1460-1, though he had ſtaid with Henry VI. on a promiſe of ſafety.

[4] Thomas Courtney, Son and Heir of Thomas Courtney, Earl of Devonſhire, was beheaded very ſoon after his Father, in 1461.

place in Devenſhire whiche was of counſeil w^t my Lord Bonvyle and they ſette an hous on fyer at Radfords gate and cryed and mad an noyſe as though they had be ſory for ye fyer, and by that cauſe Radfords men ſet opyn ye gats and yede owt to ſe the fyer and for w^t therll ſone forſeid entred into ye place and intreted [5] Radford to come doun of his chambre to ſpke w^t them p'myttyng hym that he ſhuld no bodyly harm have up on whiche p'myſſe he come doun and ſpak w^t ye ſeid Erll ſone.

In ye mene tyme his menye robbe his chambre and ryfled his huches * and truſſed ſuyche as they coude gete to gydder and caryed it awey on his own hors.

Thanne yerll Sone ſeid, Radford thou muſt come to my Lord my Fadir, he ſeid he wold and bad oon of his men make redy his hors to ride w^t hem whiche anſwerd hym y^t alle his hors wern take awey, thanne he ſeid to yerll ſone S^r. yo^r. men have robbed my chambre and thei have myn hors y^t I may not ride w^t you to my Lord yo^r fadir, wherfor I p'y you lete me ride for I am old and may not go.

It was anſwerid hym ageyn yat he ſhuld walke forth w^t them on his feete and ſo he dede till he was a † flyte ſhote or more from his place and yanne he was [6] .. .. ſoftly for cawſe he myght not go faſt and whanne yei were thus dep'ted he t^rned .. .. oon forw^t come ix men ageyn up on

Nicholas Radford was an eminent Lawyer, and reſided at Poghill, near Kyrton.

5 We ſee in this Letter a ſtrong and diabolical inſtance of party fury; an old and an infirm man is, in the night, by a ſtratagem, enticed to open his Gates; his Place is robbed and plundered, and himſelf, after various ill treatment, is moſt cruelly murdered, by the direction of the Son and Heir of a Nobleman, then at variance with Lord Bonvile.

* Huche, French, a Coffer, or Cheſt ſtanding upon legs.

hym

ſhire which was of counſel with my Lord Bonvile; and they ſet an houſe on fire at Radford's gate, and cried and made a noiſe as though they had been ſorry for the fire; and by that cauſe Radford's men ſet open the Gates and yead [*went*] out to ſee the fire; and forthwith the Earl's Son aforeſaid entered into the place, and entreated [5] Radford to come down of his Chamber to ſpeak with them, promiſing him that he ſhould no bodily harm have; upon which promiſe he came down, and ſpoke with the ſaid Earl's Son; in the mean time his meny [*Servants*] rob his chamber, and rifled his * hutches, and truſſed ſuch as they could get together and carried it away on his own horſes; then the Earl's Son ſaid; "Radford, thou muſt come "to my Lord my Father." He ſaid he would, and bade one of his men make ready his horſe to ride with them; which anſwered him, that all his horſes were taken away; then he ſaid to the Earl's Son: "Sir, your men have robbed my Chamber, and they have "mine horſes, that I may not ride with you to my Lord your "Father, wherefore I pray you, let me ride for I am old, and "may not go."

It was anſwered him again, that hē ſhould walk forth with them on his feet; and ſo he did till he was a † flight ſhot or more from his place, and then he was [6] .. .. ſoftly, for cauſe he might not go faſt, and when they were thus departed he turned .. .. one forthwith came nine men again upon

† A Flight was a particular kind of Arrow called Flecta, in the Latin of the middle ages. See Steevens's note on a paſſage in the firſt ſcene of Shakſpeare's *Much ado about nothing*.

[6] Where the lines are ſupplied with Dots, the Original Letter is imperfect, from a part being decayed, and torne off.

hym and ſmot hym in ye hed and fellid .. .. of them kyt his throte.

This was told to my Lord Chaunceler yis fornoon .. .. meſſengers as come of p^r^pos owt of ye ſame cuntre this matier is take gretly .. .. paſſed at ij aft' mydnyght rod owt of London as it is ſeid more yanne .. .. ye beſt wyſe ſūmme ſeyn it was to ride toward my Lord of York and ſūme .. .. k ſo meche rumo^r^ is here what it menyth I wot not God t^r^ne it .. .. at [7] Hertford and ſūme men ar a ferd that he is ſeek ageyn I p'y God .. .. my Lords of York Warwyk Saleſbury and oy^r^ arn in p^r^pos to conveye hym .. .. &c. the ſeid N. Crome berer her of ſhall telle you ſuyche tydynggs .. .. in haſt at London on Seint Simon day and Jude.

Yowr poer,

11 ½ by 13.

[8] J. Gr.

[7] The King ſeems, at the time this Letter was written, to have been at Hertford, and it was reported that he was ſick again.

[8] J. Gr. James Greſham, was a Couſin of J. Paſton's, and by this, and ſome others of his

upon him and ſmote him on the head and felled .. .. of them, cut his throat.

This was told to my Lord Chancellor this forenoon .. .. meſſengers, as come of purpoſe out of the ſame Country. This matter is taken greatly .. .. paſſed at two after midnight rode out of London as it is ſaid more than .. .. the beſt wife. Some ſay it was to ride toward my Lord of York, and ſome .. .. ſo much Rumour is here, what it meaneth I wot not, God turn it .. .. at [7] Hertford, and ſome men are afraid that he is ſick again, I pray God .. .. my Lords of York, Warwick, Saliſbury, and others are in purpoſe to convey him .. .. &c.

The ſaid Nicholas Crome, Bearer hereof, ſhall tell you ſuch tidings .. .. in haſte at London on Saint Simon's day and Jude.

Your poor,

[8] JAMES GRESHAM.

London,
Tueſday, 28th of October,
1455, 34 H. VI.

his Letters, appears to have been a Lawyer, as he often writes to him on law matters. Pl. III. N° 28.

His Seal has on it a Graſshopper; a Device afterwards borne by Sir Thomas Greſham, the Founder of the Royal Exchange, the Vane on the top of which is a Graſshopper. Pl. XIV. N° 2.

LET-

LETTER XXVIII.

To the worſhypfull Sr. and my ryght welbelovyd Coſyn John Paſton. And in hys Abſence to John Bokkyng and William Barker.

WORSHYPFULL Sr and Coſyn I recomaund me to yow. And lyke yow to wete that y have a [1] taylle with my Coſyn [2] Fenne of vc marc & more for to be chaunged uppon ſuch places as a man myght have moſte ſpedye paym't, and I pray yow hertlye to comyn wyth the ſeyd Fenne that y myght be enſured of the ſeyd taylle to be eſchaunged, and for whate rewarde competant to be yeven uppon the ſame I wolle agree it.

It'm I deſyre to know who ben the *reſidew* the remenant of the Coexecutors of the Lord [3] Wyllughbye now the Lord [4] Cromewell ys deceſed, for thys cauſe hyt was ſo that there was dew

[1] A Taille or Talley was a cleft ſtick, both parts of which were notched according to the ſum of money advanced, and of which one part was given to the Creditor, whilſt the other remained with the Debtor. Hence the Tallier of the Exchequer, now called the Teller.

Sir John Faſtolf had intruſted a Tally with his Couſin Fenn, and was deſirous of knowing what reaſonable Diſcount he ſhould allow for receiving ready money upon this ſecurity.

[2] Hugh Fenne, of Yorkſhire, was ſlain in battle during the conteſt between Richard II. and Henry IV. about 1399, when he forfeited his lands. His ſon Hugh had eſtates in Eſſex and Middleſex, where his deſcendants flouriſhed for ſeveral generations: this Family then branched off into Suffolk and Norfolk, in both which counties they acquired poſſeſſions. The writer of this note is at preſent the only male branch of this Family in the county of Norfolk. Seal, Pl. XIV. N° 28. Autograph. See Dedication.

LETTER XXVIII.

To the worſhipful Sir, and my right well beloved Couſin John Paſton, and in his Abſence to John Bocking, or William Barker.

WORSHIPFUL Sir and Couſin, I recommend me to you, and like you to weet that I have a [1] Tally with my Couſin Fenn of 500 marks (333*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*) and more, for to be changed upon ſuch places, as a man might have moſt ſpeedy payment; and I pray you heartily to commune with the ſaid Fenn that I might be inſured of the ſaid Tally to be exchanged, and for what reward competent to be given upon the ſame, I will agree to it.

Item, I deſire to know who be the Reſidue, the remanent of the Co-Executors of the Lord [3] Willoughby, now the Lord [4] Cromwell is deceaſed; for this cauſe it was ſo, that there was

The Perſon mentioned in this Letter was either the Son or Grandſon (for they were both named Hugh,) of the Hugh Fenne, of Yorkſhire, and ſeems, from the manner in which he is ſeveral times mentioned both by Sir J. Faſtolf and J. Paſton, to have been a Lawyer. He was, in 1459, a ſupervisor of Sir J. Faſtolf's will. Pl. XIV. N° 13.

[3] Robert Willoughby Lord Willoughby, an eminent Commander, was preſent at the famous battle of Agincourt, in 1415; and alſo commanded under the Duke of Bedford at the battle of Verneuil, in the province of Normandy, in 1424, where he and Sir John Faſtolf had the honour of taking the Duke of Alençon Priſoner, as appears by this Letter.

The writers of Sir J. Faſtolf's Life in the "Biographia Britannica" give an account of his having taken a French General, but are in doubt both as to the perſon taken, and likewiſe in what engagement.

[4] Henry Lord Cromwell, whoſe ſiſter, and now coheir, Lord Willoughby had married. She was at this time the wife of Sir Thomas Neville.

dew to the Lord Wyllughbye and to me x m[l] marc for a Reward, to be payd of my Lord [5] Bedford ys godes for the takyng of the Duc of [6] Allauncon.

And the ſeyd Lord Wyllughbye had but one thowſand m'rc payd and I m[l] mrc ſoo viij m[l] levyth yhyt to pay, of whych ſo'me iiij m[l] moſt grow to the Executors of the ſeyd Lord Wyllughby to diſpoſe.

And therfor y deſyre that the Executors and ſuch as moſt have intreſt in the Lord Wyllughby Goodes may be comyned wyth, that they may purſeute for paym't of the ſeyd iiij m[l] m'rc for hys part to be had and y ſhall make for my part.

And Maiſt' Nevyle the whych hath wedded my Lady Wyllughbye have power or intreſt to reſſeyve the Lord Wyllughby ys debts then he to be labured untoo.

And my Lord of [7] Salyſburye woll be a grete helper yn thys cauſe.

The Kyng whych ys Sup'viſor of my Lord Bedford teſtam't hath wreten and comaunded by ſondry L'res, that the ſeyd Lord Wyllughbye ſhuld be content for hys part. And ſo moch the mater ys the furtherer.

And there ys one Yon' a ſ'vu'nt of the Lord Wyllughbye whych

[5] John Plantagenet, Duke of Bedford, and Regent of France, third Son of Henry IV. This great man died at Paris, in 1435, and was buried at Roan.

It may be ſuppoſed that the Ranſom was paid into his hands, as Commander in Chief, and that, in that Character, he was entitled to a conſiderable ſhare of it, though it appears from this account that he had detained moſt of it; for even now at the diſtance of 20 years from his death, the Lord Willoughby and Sir J. Faſtolf, had received only 1000 marks each.

[6] John II. Duke of Alençon, ſon of him ſlain at Agincourt, was born in 1409, and taken

due to the Lord Willoughby and to me 10,000 marks (6666*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*) for a Reward to be paid of my Lord [5] Bedford's Goods, for the taking of the Duke of [6] Alençon.

And the ſaid Lord Willoughby had but one thouſand marks (666*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*) paid, and I one thouſand marks (666*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*) ſo 8000 (5333*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*) leveth [*remaineth*] yet to pay; of which Sum, 4000 (2666*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*) muſt grow to the Executors of the ſaid Lord Willoughby to diſpoſe.

And therefore I deſire that the Executors, and ſuch as moſt have intereſt in the Lord Willoughby's Goods, may be communed with; that they may make purſuit for payment of the ſaid 4000 marks, for his part to be had, and I ſhall make for my part.

And *(if)* Maſter Nevile, the which hath wedded my Lady Willoughby, have power, or intereſt to receive the Lord Willoughby's Debts, then he to be laboured unto. And my Lord of [7] Saliſbury will be a great helper in this cauſe.

The King, which is Superviſor of my Lord Bedford's Teſtament, hath written, and commanded by ſundry Letters, that the ſaid Lord Willoughby ſhould be content for his part; and ſo much the matter is the forwarder.

And there is one Young, a ſervant of the Lord Willoughby,

taken Priſoner at the Battle of Verneuil, in 1424. He was detained a Priſoner three years, but releaſed at the interceſſion of the Duke of Burgundy, on paying a Ranſom of 200,000 Crowns. He afterwards was convicted of Treaſons towards his own Sovereigns, and died in priſon in 1476.

[7] Richard Neville, Earl of Saliſbury, married Alice, Daughter and heir of Thomas Montague, the great Earl of Saliſbury, who had the principal command under the Duke of Bedford, at Verneuil, and who died in 1428.

whych purſewed thys mater, yff he were yn London he coude geve gode enformacon uppon thys mater.

Y pray yow wryte to me how my maters doth and of ſuch Noveltees as ye have there. And our Lord have yow yn hys kepyng.

Wreten at Caſtr haſtlye v day of Few'yer A° xxxiiij^to^

R H. vj.

Yo' Coſyn,

10 ¾ by 5 ½. [8] J. Faſtolf.

[8] Autograph. Pl. 11. N° 15.

LETTER XXIX.

To the right worſhipfull and my right entierly welbeloved Sr. John [1] Faſtolf knight.

RIGHT worſhipful and my right entierly welbeloved I grete you right hertly wele. Thanking you ſp'ialy and in full herty wiſe for the verray geantle goodneſſe that ye have ſhewid unto me at all tymes prayng you of good cōtynuance.

And

This Letter is written by the Secretary, and concluded and ſubſcribed by the hand of that great Prelate, Cardinal, and Lord Chancellor, Thomas Bourchier, Archbiſhop of Canterbury; who is recorded to have been a principal means of introducing the Art of Printing into England. He was elected Archbiſhop in 1454, 32 H. VI. was a man of conſiderable Learning, and died in 1486, 2 H. VII. at an advanced age. Pl. 1. N° 9.

It is a private Letter, records no particularly memorable Event, but is a good ſpecimen of

which purſued this matter; if he were in London, he could give good information upon this matter.

I pray you write to me how my matters do, and of ſuch novelties as ye have there, and our Lord have you in his keeping.

Written at Caiſtor haſtily, the 5th day of February, in the 34th year of King Henry VIth.

Your Couſin,

[8] JOHN FASTOLF.

Caiſter,
Wedneſday,
5th of February, 1455, 34 H. VI.

LETTER XXIX.

To the right worſhipful, and my right entirely well beloved Sir John [1] Faſtolf, Knight.

RIGHT worſhipful, and my right entirely well beloved, I greet you right heartily well; Thanking you ſpecially, and in full hearty wiſe, for the very gentle goodneſs that ye ſhewed unto me at all times, praying you of good continuance.

of the epiſtolary ſtyle of writing, and of the mode of ſpelling, at the period when it was written; which muſt have been between 1454 and 1459; as in the former year the Writer became Archbiſhop, and in the latter Sir John Faſtolf died.

[1] Sir John Faſtolf, was a valiant Soldier in the wars in France; he built a noble Manſion at Caiſter, near Yarmouth, in Norfolk, wherein he lived in great ſtate and magnificence, and departed this life on the 6th of November, 1459, aged above 80 years.

And

And as touching ſuche matiers as ye ſente unto me fore I truſte to God verraly inſomuche as the [2] Rule is amendid heer and the wedder waxeth ſeeſonable and pleaſante to ſee you in thiſe p'ties within ſhort tyme, at whiche tyme I ſhal cōmune und demeene unto you in ſuche wiſe, that ye ſhal be right wele pleaſid.

And as for the matier cōc'nyng my Lord of [3] Bedford, thinketh nat contrarye but that ye ſhal finde me hertly welwillid to doo that I can or may for yaccompleſshm't of youre deſire as wel in that matier as in other like as your ſ'vaunte John Bokking berer hereof can clierlier reporte unto you on my behalve, to whom like hit you to yeve feith and credence in this p'tie, And the bliſſid Trinitee have you ev'laſtingly in his keping.

Written in my Manoir of Lamehith the xxvj daie of March.

Your feithfull and trew,

Th. Cant.

11 $\frac{3}{4}$ by 5 $\frac{3}{4}$.

LET-

[2] This may apply either to ſome change in the Adminiſtration; or only in the management of the houſe.

[3] There was no Duke of Bedford between 1435 and 1470. This muſt therefore relate to ſome matter which had formerly paſſed between Sir John Faſtolf, and John Plantagenet,

And as touching ſuch matters as ye ſent unto me, for, I truſt to God verily, inſomuch as the [2] Rule is amended here, and the weather waxeth ſeaſonable and pleaſant, to ſee you in theſe parts within ſhort time; at which time I ſhall commune and demean unto you [*act towards you*] in ſuch wiſe, that ye ſhall be right well pleaſed.

And as for the matter concerning my Lord of [3] Bedford, thinketh not contrary, but that ye ſhall find me heartily well willed, to do that I can or may for the accompliſhment of your deſire, as well in that matter as in other like, as your Servant John Bokking, Bearer hereof, can clearlier report unto you on my behalf, to whom like it you to give faith and credence in this part; and the Bleſſed Trinity have you everlaſtingly in his keeping.

Written in my Manor of Lamehith [*Lambeth*] the 27th day of March.

Your faithful and true,

THOMAS CANT.

Lambeth,
27th of March.
Between 1454, and 1459, 33 and 37 H. VI.

Plantagenet, Duke of Bedford, and Regent of France, who died in 1435; perhaps it related to the Ranſom of the Duke of Alençon. Sir John ſerved long under him in France.

LET-

LETTER XXX.

To my right worſhipfull and my mooſt beſt beloved Lord Fadre my Lord Beaumont'.

RIGHT worſhipfull and my mooſt beſt beloved Lord Fadre, I recomaunde me unto youre good Lordſhip, pleaſe it yow to wit, I have conſayvid yo^r^ writyng right well and for aſmoche as ye deſure the Stiwardſhip of Baggeworth for youre wilbeloved Thom's Everyngh'm which y trowe verely be right a good and a feithfull gentilman. How be it my Lord youre deſure ſhall be had in all y^t^ is in me; and at y^e^ inſtaūnce of yo^r^ Lordſhip y by thaviſe of my Counceill ſhall gyf it hym in writyng undre ſuche fourme as ſhall pleaſe yow, wheryn y wold be glad to doo y^t^ at might pleaſe youre good Lordſhip, p'yng yow right hertly ye wold be myn eſpeciall good Lord and Fadre in all ſuche as ye can thynk ſhuld growe to my worſhip or p'fite in any wiſe as my ſynguler truſt is mooſt in yow.

And y alwey redy to doo yowe ſ'vyſe with Goddes g'ce who have yow my right worſhipfull and my mooſt beſt beloved Lord Fadre ev^r^ in his bleſſid kepyng.

Writton at Roy'fild Gray the xxiiij day of Juyle, &c.

Fury'more

This Letter, though it contains no hiſtorical or memorable Event, exhibits the dutiful ſtyle of a Son to a Father, and on that account deſerves to be read; it was written between 1455, when John ſucceeded his Father William, as Lord Lovell, and 1460, when Lord Beaumont was ſlain.

John

LETTER XXX.

To my right worſhipful, and my moſt beſt beloved Lord Father, my Lord Beaumont.

RIGHT worſhipful, and my moſt beſt beloved Lord Father, I recommend me unto your good Lordſhip; pleaſe it you to weet, I have conceived your writing right well, and foraſmuch as ye deſire the Stewardſhip of Baggeworth for your wellbeloved Thomas Everingham, which I know verily, be right a good and a faithful Gentleman. Howbeit, my Lord, your deſire ſhall be had in all that is in me; and at the inſtance of your Lordſhip, I, by the advice of my Council, ſhall give it him in writing, under ſuch form as ſhall pleaſe you; wherein I would be glad to do that, that might pleaſe your good Lordſhip, praying you right heartily, ye would be mine eſpecial good Lord and Father, in all ſuch as ye can think ſhould grow to my worſhip, or profit in any wiſe, as my ſingular truſt is moſt in you, and I alway ready to do you ſervice with God's Grace, who have you, my right worſhipful, and my moſt beſt beloved Lord Father, ever in his bleſſed keeping.

Written at Rotherfield Gray, the 24th day of July, &c.

Furthermore

John Lord Lovell, married Jane, Daughter of Viſcount Beaumont, and at length Heir to her Brothers William and Henry, who both ſucceeded to the title, but died without iſſue. Pl. 1. N° 11.

Fury^r more my Lord and it like yow, my Lady my modre recom'aundid her unto yo^r good Lordſhip yn whom her mooſt feith and truſt is in, p'yng yow ye woll be good brother unto her for ſhe hath taken yow for her chief Counceill, &c.

John Lord Louell.

10 by 5 ½.

Lord Lovell, died in 1464, leaving his Son and Heir Francis Lord Lovell, who was Lord Chamberlain to King Richard III. and attended him at the battle of Boſworth field.

The

LETTER XXXJ.

To my Maiſt' Paſton.

WORSHIPFUL S^r. and my good maiſter I recomaunde me to yow yis day I come home and as to our mat'es I ſhall be with yow on monday and teuſday next be my Maiſt's advys and enforme yow of all and of ſuche as I will not write yo^r Cofre is at y^e p'ns' Inne ſende for it whane ye like be the ^r token I hadde of Margret Goche a boke of lawe y^t Wigge

This Letter was written on Whitſun Eve, the 15th of May, in 1456, a ſhort time after a tumult in London, between the Inhabitants and ſome Merchants of Lombardy.

The Court ſuppoſed the Duke of York's Party to have encouraged it and, by the report of Lord Beaumont being ſlain, and the Earl of Warwick much hurt (I ſuppoſe in this tumult,) itappears at leaſt that the Leaders of each party, were drawn into it when it did happen,

Furthermore my Lord, and it like you, my Lady my Mother recommended her unto your good Lordſhip, in whom her moſt faith and truſt is in, praying you, ye will be good Brother unto her, for ſhe hath taken you for her chief Counſel, &c.

JOHN LORD LOVELL.

Rotherfield Gray, in Oxfordſhire,
24th of July, between 1455 and 1460, 34 and 39 H. VI.

The Impreſſion on the wax of the Seal is worn out, but it has a braid of twine neatly fixed round it. Pl. XIV. N° 8.

LETTER XXXI.

To my Maſter Paſton.

WORSHIPFUL Sir and my good Maſter, I recommend me to you; this day I came home, and as to our matters, I ſhall be with you on Monday and Tueſday next by my Maſter's advice, and inform you of all, and of ſuch as I will not write. Your Coffer is at the Prince's Inn; ſend for it when ye like, by the [1]token, I had of Margaret Goche a Book of Law, that Wigge brought me.

happen, although no previous plan might be laid by either party for that purpoſe. But as the report was falſe, of either of theſe Noblemen being killed or wounded, ſo poſſibly neither might be preſent in the tumult.

[1] This ſhows the caution uſed at this time, for preventing impoſitions on the delivery of Goods at Inns, &c.

Wigge brought me as for tidyngs my Maiſtys yo^r broyer faren weel and recomaunde yeim to my Maiſtreſſe y^re moder to yow and to all, &c. As for tidings elles y^e Kyng is at Shene the Quene and Prince at [2] Tutbury but if it be ye latter remevyng tidings were y^t y^e lord [3] Beaumont was ſlayn and my [4] lord Warrewik ſore hurte m^l men ſlayn and vj^xx knyghts and ſquiers hurte and no yng trewe bleſſed be god as for the lumbards ij of y^e treſpaſers were hanged on monday and there ar be yis tyme p'clamacōns made or ſhall be thorwe london ye pees to be kepte up on grete peynes and the lumbards to occupie ye [5] m'chaundizes as yei dide til ye Counſail or p'lament have oy'wiſe det'myned and noo more as yet the atteynte abidith unreuled til ye next t'me as I ſhal telle yow and it ſhal doo weel w^t God is g'ce hoe have yow in kepyng and all yo'es Writen at Caſt' vigilia Pentecoſten.

Yo^r owen,

9 by 2 ½.

[6] J. B.

[2] In Staffordſhire, our Hiſtorians ſay at Coventry.

[3] John Beaumont, Viſcount Beaumont, the firſt who was ſo created in England, in 1439. He was killed at the battle of Northampton, in 1460, fighting for the Houſe of Lancaſter.

[4] Richard Nevile, Earl of Warwick, fell in the battle of Barnet, moſt furiouſly fighting againſt King Edward IV. whoſe cauſe he had before moſt vigorouſly ſupported.

[5] This ſeems to point out to us that this riot was occaſioned by ſome matters relative to trade, and not, as ſome of our Hiſtorians relate, "to a Foreigner's wearing a Dagger."

LET-

As for tidings, my Maſters, your Brethren fare well, and recommend them to my Miſtreſs their Mother, to you and to all, &c. As for tidings elſe, the King is at Shene, the Queen and Prince at [2] Tutbury, but if it be, the latter removing. Tidings were that the Lord [3] Beaumont was ſlain, and my [4] Lord Warwick ſore hurt, 1000 men ſlain and ſix ſcore Knights and 'Squires hurt, and nothing true, bleſſed be God. As for the Lombards, two of the treſpaſſers were hanged on Monday, and there are by this time proclamations made, or ſhall be, through London, the Peace to be kept upon great pains; and the Lombards to occupy their [5] merchandizes as they did, till the Council and Parliament have otherwiſe determined, and no more as yet.

The Atteint abideth unruled till the next term, as I ſhall tell you, and it ſhall do well with God's grace, who have you in keeping and all yours. Written at Caiſter vigilia Pentecoſten.

Your own,

[6] JOHN BOCKING.

Whitſun Even,
15th of May, 1456,
34 H. VI.

[6] John Bocking was one of the Houſehold of Sir John Faſtolf, and appears to have had ſome management of his Law buſineſs; probably he was his Counſellor, for men of rank and fortune in thoſe days conſtantly retained one or more in their ſervice. Pl. 111. N° 33.

His ſtyle and ſpelling differ very little from thoſe of modern times.

The impreſſion on the ſeal is a Beaſt. Pl. xiv. N° 11.

LETTER XXXIJ.

To my right good Maiſtr John Paſton ſquier at Norwiche in haſte.

SIR pleaſe it yor maiſt'ſhip to wyte I have my attachements graunted in open courte wt helpe of [1] Litelton and [2] Hewe at Fen and was bide to make redy the names &c. before the Barons, of which [3] Haltoft was one *(then follows various Law Buſineſs.)*

As for tidings the Kyng is at Shene, the Quene at Cheſtre, ye Duc of Buk was as I come hiderward at Writell, ye Erle of Warr' at Werr' and ye Lords [4] Chaunceller Treſorier and yerle of Sar in London and noo mor' Lords at ye begynyng yis day of ye grete counſail.

Many men ſay yt yre ſhuld be but yei wote not what ye Sege ſhall as men ſay come to Caleys and to Guynes for moche puple come ou'e ye water of Somme and grete Navies on ye ſee.

Yerle of Penbroke is wt ye Kyng and noo mor' Lordis.

Yerle

[1] This is Thomas Littelton, the great Lawyer, who was called to the degree of Serjeant at Law, in 1454; and in 1466, was appointed one of the Judges of the Common Pleas; he died in 1481.

[2] Hugh at Fen, by the manner in which he is here mentioned, appears to have been a Lawyer

LETTER XXXII.

To my right good Maſter, John Paſton, Eſquire, at Norwich, in haſte.

SIR, pleaſe it your Maſterſhip to weet, I have my attachments granted in open court with help of [1] Litelton and [2] Hugh at Fen, and was bid to make ready the names, &c. before the Barons, of which [3] Haltoft was one, &c. *(then follows various Law Buſineſs.)*

As for tidings, the King is at Sheen, the Queen at Cheſter; the Duke of Buckingham was, as I came hitherwards, at Writtle, the Earl of Warwick at Warwick, and the Lords [4] Chancellor, Treaſurer, and the Earl of Saliſbury in London, and no more Lords at the beginning this day of the great Council.

Many men ſay that there ſhould be, but they wot not what.

The Siege ſhall, as men ſay, come to Calais and to Guiſnes; for much people come over the water of Somme; and great Navies *(are)* on the Sea.

The Earl of Pembroke is with the King, and no more Lords.

Lawyer of Eminence. This family at this time reſided in Eſſex, and a Sir Hugh Fenn was Treaſurer of the Houſehold in this reign.

[3] Gilbert Haltoft, a Baron of the Exchequer, died in 1459.

[4] Thomas Bourchier, Archbiſhop of Canterbury, ſucceeded Richard Nevile, Earl of Saliſbury, as Lord Chancellor, on the 7th of March 1455-6.

The

Yerle of [5] Richemond and Griffith ſuoh are at werre gretely in Wales, ye Comons of Kent as yei were wotte er no[t] all weel diſpoſid for y'e is in doyng amongs hem what eu'e it bee.

Of Scotts is here but litell talkyng.

My Lord York is at Sendall ſtille, and [6] waytith on y[e] Quene, and ſhe up on hym.

I dide my Maiſtreſs y[or] Moderis erands as ye have herde of for Maiſt[r] Will[m] hath writen his entente and he and Clement faren weel.

Writen at Horſhighdone vij[mo] die Junij.

Rokewode and Crane faren weel and yei and I recomaunde hem to my maiſtreſs yo[r] wif.

And as I underſtande ye Clerk of ye Rolles is owte of charite w[t] Maiſt' Yelv'ton and my Lord Chaunceller a litell mevid, &c.

Yo[r] owen,

[7] J. B.

12 by 4.

[5] Edmund of Hadham, half-brother to Henry VI. ſon of Owen Tudor, and Queen Catherine, widow of Henry Vth. was created Earl of Richmond, in 1453, and died in November, 1456.

LET-

The Earl [5]Richmond and Griffith are at war together in Wales.

The Commons of Kent, as they were wont, are not all well diſpoſed; for there is in doing amongſt them whatever it be.

Of Scots is here but little talking.

My Lord York is at Sendal ſtill, and [6]waiteth on the Queen, and ſhe upon him.

I did my Miſtreſs' your Mother's Errands, as ye have heard of, for Maſter William hath written his intent, and he and Clement fare well.

Written at Horſhighdon [*Horſeleydown*] the 7th day of June.

Rokewood and Crane fare well, and they and I recommend them to my Miſtreſs your wife.

And as I underſtand, the Clerk of the Rolls is out of Charity with Maſter Yelverton, and my Lord Chancellor a little moved, &c.

Your own,

[7] JOHN BOCKING.

Horſhighdon,
Monday, 7th of June,
1456, 34 H. VI.

[6] This muſt mean, watched the motions of each other.
[7] Autograph. Pl. 111. N° 33.

LETTER XXXIII.

To my right truſty and intᵉly welbeloved Frend John Paſton ſquier.

RIGHT truſty and entᵉly welbeloved frend I grete you well and wull ze wite that [1] Danyell hath required me to write un to you praying you that ze wyll kepe the day upon [2] thurſday vij dayes nexſt comyng which ſhal be for the beſt as I truſt not with ſtandy'g I ſuppoſe lerned men wyll not be eaſy for to gete be cauſe of this beſy tyme of herveſt.

Almyghty God have you in hiſe gouᵉnaunce.

Writen at Mydelton the x day of auguſt.

Yoᵉ frend,

[3] Scales.

10 ½ by 4.

Part of the Paper Mark,
Bull's Head.

I am at a loſs to determine, what day is meant to be kept, at which the preſence of learned men would be neceſſary.

I have however given this Letter, as being written by a Nobleman of much account in his time for courage, conduct, and loyalty; and as containing an inſtance of the ſimplicity of the times, in ſhewing us that learned men were employed in the buſineſs of the Harveſt, and therefore could not leave their homes.

[1] Thomas Daniel, Eſq. had been Conſtable of the Caſtle of Riſing, in Norfolk, before this time, and appears to have been ſucceeded, in 1455, by Thomas Lord Scales, perhaps therefore the day appointed to be kept on the 19th of this month, related to the Government, or Charge of this Caſtle.

[2] 19th of Auguſt.

LETTER XXXIII.

To my right truſty, and entirely well beloved Friend, John Paſton, Eſquire.

RIGHT truſty, and entirely well beloved Friend, I greet you well, and will ye weet, that [1] Daniel hath required me to write unto you, praying you that ye will keep the Day upon [2] Thurſday ſeven days next coming; which ſhall be for the beſt as I truſt, notwithſtanding I ſuppoſe learned men will not be eaſy for to get, becauſe of this buſy time of Harveſt.

Almighty God have you in his Governance.

Written at Middleton the 10th day of Auguſt.

Your Friend,

[3] SCALES.

Middleton, in Norfolk,
Tueſday, 10th of Auguſt,
1456, 34 H. VI.

[3] Thomas Lord Scales, was a valiant and active Soldier in the French wars, and was Seneſchal of Normandy.

In 1460, he ſecured the Tower of London for the King, but that being delivered up to the Yorkiſts after the battle of Northampton, in July, in that year; he fearing for his own perſonal ſafety, endeavoured to eſcape by water, but being ſeen by the Earl of Warwick's men, was taken and ſlain by them, being then about 62 years old. Pl. 1. N° 12.

His Daughter and heir was married to Anthony Wodvile, brother to Elizabeth, Queen of Edward IV. who in her right was ſummoned to parliament as Lord Scales.

N. B. At the bottom of this Letter is written in an ancient hand, I believe in the hand of J. Paſton himſelf.

"Lettera int' Mich. xxxiiij and xxxv."

Several of the Letters have a ſimilar Memorandum, which aſcertains the Date.

LETTER XXXIII.

To my gode Maiſter John Paſton Eſcuier in Norw^c. and yn hys abſence to John Berney at Caiſt^r ſquyer.

WORSHYPFULL S^rs. I recomaund me to yow, lyke yow wete that as to the War'unts and cop' that ye remēbred to be ghéten owt, it ys laboured for, &c.

And as to the Aſſiſs' it ſhall hald at Norwych the monday next com fortendayes.

The Duc of York the Lord [1] Cromewell and othyr Lordys of the north that were wyth my ſeyd Lord York comen hedre by monday next as it ys credybly ſeyd.

The Lordys that be appoynted to kepe the See maken hem redye yn all haſte. And the Treſo'er alſo the Lord [2] Wyltſhyre for the weſt cooſt. And a ſtately veſſell only for the warre ys made new at Bryſtow by the [3] Mayr called St'myn'.

And the ſeyd toune w^t the weſt cooſts wolle do her part and they may be ſupported or favo'ed.

Maſtere Pownyngs hath day tille the next t'me by a remay-

ner

This Letter has no date of the year, but by the care taken to guard the Coaſts, it ſeems to have been written in July 1457, at which time the French King meditated an invaſion; and his fleet actually made an attempt upon, and plundered Sandwich in Kent, in the Auguſt following.

[1] Henry Lord Cromwell.

[2] James Butler, Earl of Ormond, and Lord Treaſurer, was created Earl of Wiltſhire, in

LETTER XXXIV.

To my good Maſter John Paſton, Eſquire, in Norwich, and in his abſence to John Berney, at Caiſter, Eſquire.

WORSHIPFUL Sirs, I recommend me to you, like you weet that as to the Warrants and Copies that ye remembred to be gotten out, it is laboured for, &c.

And as to the Aſſizes, it ſhall be holden at Norwich the Monday next come fourteen days.

The Duke of York, the Lord [1] Cromwell, and other Lords of the North, that were with my ſaid Lord of York, are coming hither by Monday next, as it is credibly ſaid.

The Lords, that be appointed to keep the Sea, are making them ready in all haſte. And the Treaſurer alſo, the Lord of [2] Wiltſhire for the weſt Coaſt.

And a ſtately veſſel, only for the war, is made new at Briſtol, by the [3] Mayor, called St. Myn'; and the ſaid Town with the weſt Coaſts will do their part, and [*if*] they may be ſupported and favoured.

Maſter Poynings hath day till the next term by a Remainer;

in 1449, and after the battle of Towton, wherein Henry was defeated, he was beheaded at Newcaſtle, in 1461.

[3] William Canyng, was in all probability the Mayor of Briſtol, who made new this ſtately veſſel only for the war, called the St. Myn'. Query, St. Maturin.

many

ner manye a gode man ys hert he hath. God comfort hȳ in ryght.

And juſtice ys don dayly uppon thevys and malefactors, and people be glad that juſtice may p'cede.

The Lord [4] Bourchier hath a gode Renomee of hys wyſe demenyng at Calis but he ys not yhyt comen.

The Soudeʳs be more temp'at then they were, not ell for lak of leyſʳ but Our Lord kepe you.

Wryt at L, the v day of Jullet.

Greſſ'm qwyts hym well yn yoʳ Erandys doyng to me.

Yoʳ.

11 ½ by 4 ½.

[5] W. Botener.

Paper Mark.
Bull's Head, &c.
Pl. VIII. N° 2.
N. B. The greateſt part is cut off.

4 Henry Lord Bourchier, ſat in Parliament in 1446, as Viſcount Bourchier, in 1461 was created Earl of Eſſex, and died in 1483. He married Iſabel, Siſter of Richard Duke of York, in 1448.

LETTER XXXV.

Erands to London of Augnes Paſton the xxviij day of Jenur' the yer of Kyng Henry the Sext xxxvj.

TO prey Grenefeld to ſend me feythfully word by Wrytyn who Clemēt Paſton hath do his dever ī lernyng.

And if he hathe nought do well nor wyll nought amend prey hym that he wyll trewly belaſſch hym tyl he wyll amend, and ſo ded the laſt mayſtr and yᵉ beſt that eu' he had att Caumbrege.

many a good man is hurt *(that)* he hath. God comfort him in right.

And Juſtice is done daily upon Thieves and Malefactors, and People be glad that Juſtice may proceed.

The Lord [4] Bourchier hath a good Renomee [*Renown*] of his wiſe demeaning at Calais, but he is not yet come.

The Soldiers be more temperate than they were.

Nothing elſe for lack of leiſure, but our Lord keep you.

Written at L *(London)* the 5th day of July.

Greſsham quits him well in your Errands doing to me.

Yours,

[5] WILLIAM BOTENER.

London,
Tueſday, 5th of July,
1457, 35 H. VI.

The Impreſſion on the Seal of this Letter is a W. ſurmounted by a Coronet. Pl. XIV. N° 9.

5 Autograph. Pl. II. N° 24.

LETTER XXXV.

Errands to London of Agnes Paſton, the 28th day of January, 1457, the year of King Henry VI. the 36th.

TO pray Greenfield to ſend me faithfully word by writing, how Clement Paſton hath done his endeavour in Learning.

And if he hath not done well, nor will not amend, pray him that he will truly belaſh [*whip*] him, till he will amend; and ſo did the laſt Maſter, and the beſt that ever he had at Cambridge.

And

And ſey Grenefeld that if he wyll take up on hym to brynge hym in to good Rewyll and Lernyng that I may verily know he doth hys dever I wyll geve hym x m'rs for hys labor, for I had leu' he wer fayr beryed than loſt for defaute.

It'm to ſe who many Gownys Clemēt hath.

And the that be bar late hem be reyſyd.

He hathe achort grene Gowne.

And achort muſterdevelers Gowne wer neu' reyſyd.

And achort blew Gowne y^{t} was reyſyd and mad of a ſyde Cowne whan I was laſt at London.

And † aſyde Ruſſet Gowne furryd w^{t} bevyr was mad this tyme ij yer.

And aſyde murry Gowne was mad this tyme twelmoneth.

It'm to do make me vj Sponys of viij oūce of troy wyght well facyond and dubbyl gylt.

And ſey Elyzabt' Paſton that ſhe muſt uſe hyr ſelfe to werke redyly as other Jentylwomen don' and ſu'what to helpe hyr ſelfe ther w^{t}.

It'm to pay the Lady Pole .. . xxvj^{s} viij^{d} for hyr bord.

And

From theſe Memoranda we may collect that her Son Clement Paſton, who was born in 1442, had already been at Cambridge, where he had been negligent of his Learning, and where had been properly corrected.

He was now under the tuition of a Mr. Greenfield, in London, to whom his Mother herein delegates proper authority to correct him, with a reward in hand and the promiſe of a greater if he ſhall be ſucceſsful.

Clement's wardrobe ſeems well furniſhed with Gowns. Elizabeth Paſton, her Daughter, was at this time between 20 and 30 years old, and ſeems to be brought up in the family of Lady Pole, where, though ſhe paid for her board, ſhe was employed in needle works of various kinds. For an explanation of muſterdevelers, ſee Note ^{t}. p. 256. Vol. II.

This

And ſay [*tell*] Greenfield, that if he will take upon him to bring him into good Rule and Learning, that I may verily know he doth his endeavour, I will give him 10 Marks *(6l. 13s. 4d.)* for his labour, for I had lever [*rather*] he were fairly buried than loſt for default.

Item, to ſee how many Gowns Clement hath, and they that be bare, let them be raiſed, [*let them have a new * nap ſet upon them.*]

He hath a ſhort green Gown.

And a ſhort muſterdevelers Gown, (*which*) were never raiſed.

And a ſhort blue Gown, that was raiſed, and made of a ſide Gown, when I was laſt at London.

And a † ſide Ruſſet Gown furred with beaver was made this time two years.

And a ſide Murrey Gown was made this time twelvemonth.

Item, to do make me [*get made for me*] ſix Spoons of eight ounces of troy weight, well faſhioned and double gilt.

And ſay [*tell*] Elizabeth Paſton that ſhe muſt uſe herſelf to work readily, as other Gentlewomen do, and ſomewhat to help herſelf therewith.

Item, to pay the Lady Pole 26s. and 8d. for her board.

This Lady Pole was moſt probably the Daughter, or wife of a Son, of Michael de la Pole, Earl of Suffolk, the father of William Duke of Suffolk.

* "I tell thee Jack Cade the clothier means to dreſs the Commonwealth, and "turn it, and *ſet a new nap upon it.*" See Steevens's Shakſpeare, Henry VI. Part ii. Act iv. p. 398, laſt Edition.

† A Side Gown may mean a long one. For in Laneham's Account of Queen Elizabeth's Entertainment at Kenelworth Caſtle 1575. The Minſtrel's "Gown had *ſide* [i. e. long] ſleeves down to the mid-leg."

The Gown however deſcribed by Mrs. Paſton, appears rather to have been the Sid-gear. Lateralis veſtis, ſc. ad latera tegenda. Lumbaris toga. See Reubenij Gloſſarium, 65. Ælfr. Gloſſ. p. 68 and 69. A Gown to cover the *ſides* or loins.

And if Grenefeld have do wel hys dever to Clemēt or wyll do hys dever geffe hym y^e^ Nobyll.

[1] Agnes Paſton.

5 ½ by 10 ¾.

[1] Autograph. Pl. 11. N° 19.

LETTER XXXIX.

[1] *To the Right worſhipful and with al myn hert rigt entierly welebiloved Broye' the Viſcount Beaumont.*

RIGHT worſhipful and with al myn hert right entierly wele bilovede Brothre I recomaunde me unto yow and for ſomoche as by the Kings moſte noblez l'rez brought me late by Hagreſton

This Letter requires ſome previous explanation from our Engliſh Hiſtory, before it can be properly underſtood.

The Duke of York, in 1456, having not yet openly aſſerted his right to the Crown; the Queen's Party, though informed of his intentions on that head, could not take ſuch ſteps, as if his deſigns had been more apparently avowed.

The King however, in the ſummer of this year, ſent Letters to the Duke, and to the Earls of Saliſbury and Warwick, requiring them to meet him at Coventry, on matters of State.

They were ſuſpicious of the Queen, however they ſet forwards, but either on the road, or at their arrival, their Emiſſaries informed them, that they were in danger; whereupon they immediately ſeparated and departed.

Foreign Affairs, during the greateſt part of the year 1457, kept both Parties rather quiet, but in January, when domeſtic diſputes were again ready to break out, endeavours were uſed for a reconciliation, and the King wrote, with his own hand, Letters to the Duke of York, and his Friends, requeſting them to repair to London, in order to have all matters amicably and ſincerely adjuſted.

This Letter, from the Earl of Saliſbury to Viſcount Beaumont, ſeems to have been written in anſwer to that received by him from the King, and ſent to the Earl by one of his Highneſs's Grooms of his Chamber.

It appears by this Anſwer, that the Earl was fearful of putting himſelf (at leaſt till he had conſulted his Friends) into the King's and Queen's Power, and therefore feigns himſelf very ſick; but at the ſame time he ſeems conſcious that his ſickneſs will not be believed

And if Greenfield have done well his devoir to Clement, or will do his devoir, give him the noble, (6*s.* 8*d.*)

' AGNES PASTON.

LETTER XXXVI.

' To the Right worſhipful, and, with all mine heart, right entirely well beloved Brother, the Viſcount Beaumont.

RIGHT worſhipful, and, with all mine heart, right entirely well beloved Brother, I recommend me unto you; and for ſo much as, by the King's moſt nobleſt Letters, brought

believed to be ſo bad as he had repreſented it, by the particular care he takes to expreſs himſelf concerning it.

Not content with this repreſentation, he likewiſe refers his Lordſhip to another Perſon to vouch the truth of it, not indeed to Hagerſton, the King's meſſenger, who brought him the Letter, but to one Robert Danby: and I think it may be concluded, that had his illneſs been real, he would have thought that his word and honour as a Nobleman would have been a ſufficient confirmation of the truth of his aſſertion.

His fears, however, were certainly well grounded, conſidering the ſnare he had eſcaped when laſt ſummoned; but it may be ſuppoſed, that, on a meeting or conſultation between him and the Duke of York, it was determined that they would both attend.

All our Hiſtorians agree that they came, though accompanied with armed followers; and the next Letter written by William of Worceſter, and dated 1ſt of February, mentions theſe Noblemen as then arrived; ſo that very ſoon after ſending away this Letter, the Earl muſt have altered his plan.

In conſequence of this attendance, a public and ſpecious reconciliation took place, about the latter end of March, or the beginning of April; and in a proceſſion to St. Paul's Church, the Earl of Saliſbury went hand in hand with the Duke of Somerſet, immediately before the King.

' The direction of this Letter from an avowed Yorkiſt is very particular, and being written to a Nobleman in Office about the King's Perſon, and a ſtrict adherent to the Houſe of Lancaſtar, the friendly addreſs may juſtly be ſuſpected of wanting ſincerity; but both theſe Noblemen being Knights Companions of the moſt noble Order of the Garter, this brotherly mode of addreſs was uſual.

This Viſcount Beaumont, was ſlain in the battle of Northampton, fought July 1460, and was the firſt of that title by patent in England.

Hagreſton oon of ye Gromes of his Chambre, I am deſirede to come unto his Highneſſe to London, wherunto for ſuche grevous diſeas and infirmitees, as it hath liked oure Lord to viſit me with, wherof Robt Danby can at large declare unto yow, I can ne mowe diſpoſe me, without feynyng, by the trouth I owe unto the King but y^t^ therby I doubt not, I ſhulde not rekever, daies of my lyfe ſuche hurt, as by the reaſon of y^e^ ſaid diſeas, wolde grow unto me, the which hath right fervently and fore holden me in many div'ſez bihalvez, ſo y^t^ ſith my laſt comyng frome London, I had not by y^e^ ſpace of vj daies togidiez, my helth.

Wherfore brothre I pray yow with al myn hool hert, y^t^ it like yow to cal tofore yow, the ſaid Robt Danby and to take of him y^e^ vray trouth in y^e^ premiſſez, and y^r^upon to bee my goode and tendre moyen, as by yo^r^ wyſdome can beſt bee thought convenable, unto the Kings goode grace, for thexcuſe of my nown comy'ng, p'yng yow hertly to c'tifye me by comers bitwen ſuche tidings as ye ſhal have in thos p'tiez, with othre your good pleaſ^r^ to bee p'fourmed at my power as knoweth oure Lord, to whom I biſeche, to ever have yow in his bliſſed p'teccon and keping.

Wryten at Shirrifhoton the xxiiij day of Januar'.

* Yo^r^ trew brodir wīch prayth you herttely to excuſe me to y^e^ Kings Heghneſſe.

11 ¼ by 6 ½.

[2] R. Saliſbury.

LET-

[2] Richard Nevile, Earl of Saliſbury, father of the Earl of Warwick, was a principal promoter of the Duke of York's pretenſions; he was a Nobleman of great Character, and of conſummate Prudence and Abilities, but being taken priſoner at the battle of Wakefield, in December 1460, he was beheaded.

me late by Hagreſton, one of the Grooms of his Chamber, I am deſired to come unto his Highneſs to London.

Whereunto for ſuch grievous diſeaſe and infirmities as it hath liked our Lord to viſit me with, whereof Robert Danby can at large declare unto you, I can ne mowe [*nor may*] diſpoſe me without feynyng [*feigning*], by the truth I owe unto the King; but that thereby I doubt not, I ſhould not recover days of my life, ſuch hurt, as, by the reaſon of the ſaid diſeaſe, would grow unto me; the which hath right fervently and ſore holden me in many diverſe behalves, ſo that ſith [*ſince*] my laſt coming from London, I had not, by the ſpace of ſix days together, my health.

Wherefore, Brother, I pray you with all mine whole heart, that it like you to call tofore you the ſaid Robert Danby, and to take of him the very truth in the premiſes; and thereupon to be my good and tender moyen [*mean*], as by your wiſdom can beſt be thought convenable unto the King's good grace, for the excuſe of my none coming; praying you heartily to certify me by comers between, ſuch tidings as ye ſhall have in thoſe parts, with other your good pleaſure to be performed at my power, as knoweth our Lord, to whom I beſeech to ever have you in his bleſſed protection and keeping.

Written at Sheriff Hutton, the 24th day of January.

* Your true Brother, which prayeth you heartily
to excuſe me to the King's Highneſs,

Sheriff Hutton, Tueſday 24th of January, 1457-8, 36 H. VI.

* R. SALISBURY.

The concluſion (from the words "Yo' trew," &c.) and Signature of this Letter are written by the Earl himſelf, the other parts of it by his ſecretary. Pl. 1. N° 10.

The Impreſſion of the Seal is defaced.

* For a Fac-Simile of the concluding part of this Letter in the hand-writing of the Earl, ſee Pl. xv. N° 1.

LET-

LETTER XXXVIJ.

To my Rygbt Worſhypful Maſtr Sr. John Faſtolf.

RYGHT Worſhypfull Sr. and my ryght gode Maiſtr I recomaund me to yow yn my full humble wyſe.

Pleaſe yow to wete as to Nouveltees here both Chriſtofr Barker wryteth to you more along.

The Kyng came the laſt weke to Weſtmr. and the Duk of [1] Yorke came to London wt hys oune houſole onlye to the nōbre of cxl hors as it ys ſeyd, the Erle of [2] Salyſburye wt iiij c hors yn hys companye iiijxx knyghts and ſqwyers.

The Duke of [3] Somrſet came to London laſt day of Janyver wt ijc hors and loggyth wythoute Temple barre, and the Duc of [4] Exceſtr ſhalle be here thys weke wt a grete Felyſhyp and ſtrong as it ys ſeyd.

The Erle of [5] Warwyke ys not yhyt com becauſe the wynde ys not for hym.

And

The firſt part of this Letter to Sir J. Faſtolf, mentions the holding of ſome Courts, and ſome other law matters of no conſequence, wherein Yelverton, Fylengly, and others were concerned; I have therefore omitted that part, and began it where the account of public Tranſactions commences.

[1] Richard Plantagent, Duke of York, ſlain at the battle of Wakefield, in 1460.

[2] Richard Nevile, Earl of Saliſbury, taken Priſoner at the battle of Wakefield, and beheaded.

[3] Henry Beaufort, Duke of Somerſet, an active Commander in the French Wars, was a ſteady Lancaſtrian, and being made priſoner at the battle of Hexham, in 1463, was there beheaded by order of Edward IV.

[4] Henry Holland, Duke of Exeter, married Anne, Siſter of Edward IV. but always adhered

LETTER XXXVII.

To my Right Worſhipful Maſter, Sir John Faſtolf.

RIGHT Worſhipful Sir, and my right good Maſter, I recommend me to you in my full humble wiſe.

Pleaſe you to wete, as to Novelties here being, Chriſtopher Barker writeth to you more along [*at length.*]

The King came the laſt week to Weſtminſter, and the Duke of [1] York came to London with his own Houſehold only, to the number of 140 Horſe, as it is ſaid; the Earl of [2] Saliſbury with 400 Horſe in his Company, four ſcore Knights and Squires.

The Duke of [3] Somerſet came to London *(the)* laſt day of January with 200 Horſe, and lodgeth without Temple Bar.

And the Duke of [4] Exeter ſhall be here this week with a great Fellowſhip and ſtrong, as it is ſaid.

The Earl of [5] Warwick is not yet come, becauſe the wind is

adhered to the Houſe of Lancaſter. After the battle of Barnet, in 1471, he took the Sanctuary at Weſtminſter; from whence he privately eſcaped abroad, where he lived in great poverty and diſtreſs. It is ſaid that his body was found in 1474, upon the ſea ſhore, on the Coaſt of Kent.

[5] Richard Nevile, Earl of Warwick, had been appointed Admiral of the Channel, &c. he was a turbulent and factious Nobleman, and was ſlain in the battle of Barnet, in in 1471, fighting againſt Edward IV. The Duke of York and the Earl of Saliſbury were come, and the Earl of Warwick was coming to London, at the invitation of the King, in order to effect a general reconciliation; theſe as well as the Noblemen in the King's intereſt were allowed armed followers.

And the Duke of Exceſtr takyth a grete diſpleſr that my Lord Warewyke occupyeth hys office and takyth the charge of the kepy'g of the ſee uppon hym.

It'm as for tydyng of beyend ſee I hyre none certeyn but that the Frenſh Kyng ſhulde hafe maryed hys Doughtr to the Kyng of [6] Hungerye, whych had the deſcomfytur uppon the Turks, and the ſeyd Kyng ys deceſed wythynne thys vj wekes or the ſpouſelle was made, but he ordeyned or he dyed that the frenſh Kyngs Doughtr ſhuld be named Qwene of Hungerye duryng hyr lyffe.

Rygt. Worſhypfull Sr. I beſeche the bleſſed Trinite hafe yow yn hys gouvrn'ce.

Wrete at London the fyrſt day of Feurzer A° 36 R H vj.

Moreover, pleaſe you to wete that Williā [7] Canyngs the m'rchu'nt wryteth an aunſuer of your l're.

I truſt it ſhall be the bettr for your wrytyng.

My Broyr p'mytted me a certeyn ſom'e when I maryed and I ſhall hafe it of my Suſtr yff I may.

Yor hūble ſrvtte,

[8] W. Botoner, dit Worceſtyr.

11 ½ by a 8 ½.

Paper Mark,
Bull's Head and Star.
Pl. VIII. N° 2.

[6] Ladiſlaus V. ſucceeded as King of Hungary, in 1444; being only five years old, when Huniades the Regent defeated the Turks.

He died by poiſon in 1457, in the 18th year of his age, being then on the point of marriage with Magdalen, a Princeſs of France, and Daughter of Charles VII.

LET-

not for him; and the Duke of Exeter taketh a great diſpleaſure that my Lord Warwick occupieth his office, and taketh the charge of the keeping of the Sea upon him.

Item, as for tidings of beyond Sea, I hear none certain, but that the French King ſhould have married his Daughter to the King of [6] Hungary, which had the diſcomfiture upon the Turks; and the ſaid King is deceaſed within theſe ſix weeks, ere the eſpouſal was made, but he ordained ere he died that the French King's daughter ſhould be named Queen of Hungary during her life.

Right worſhipful Sir, I beſeech the bleſſed Trinity *(to)* have you in his governance.

Written at London the firſt day of February, in the 36th year of King Henry VIth.

Moreover, pleaſe you to weet that William [7] Canyngs the Merchant writeth an anſwer of your letter; I truſt it ſhall be the better for your writing.

My Brother promiſed me a certain ſum when I married, and I ſhall have it of my Siſter if I may.

Your Humble Servant,

[8] WILLIAM BOTONER, called WORCESTER.

London,
Wedneſday, 1ſt of February,
1457-8, 36 H. VI.

[7] William Canyng was a great and rich Merchant at Briſtol, and the Perſon who, in the *ſuppoſed* Rowley's Poems, is mentioned as his Patron.

[8] William Botoner, alias Worceſter, was born about 1415, 3 H. V. and was alive in 1480, 20 E. IV. Pl. 11. N° 24.

LETTER XXXVIII.

To my Maiſtr Faſtolf at Caſtre in haſte.

LYKE it yor maiſtrſhip to wyte that as for tidings the [1] Counſell is the fornone at ye blake Frires for ye eaſe of reſorting of ye Lordys that are wt inne ye toun and at aftrnon' at the white Frirers in Fletſtrete for ye Lordis wt owte ye toun and all ying ſhall come to a good concluſion wt God is g'ce for ye Kyng ſhall come hidre yis weke and ye Quene alſo as ſome men ſayn and my Lord [2] Buk and [3] Stafford wt hire and moche puple.

My Lord of [4] Cauntrbury takith grete peyne up on hym daily and will write un to yow ye crteynte of ſuche tidings as falle and ſhuld have doon or yis tyme ſaf for yat he wolde knowe an ende of ye mattr.

Oyr tidings here ar none ſauf my Lord of Exceſtre is diſpleſid

This and the preceding Letter give us an account of thoſe Noblemen, who came to London in conſequence of the King's Letters, requeſting their attendance, in order to eſtabliſh a reconciliation between both Parties.

[1] It appears that each Party had a ſeparate Council, the Lords who were Friends to the King, being lodged without the City, meeting at the White Friars; and thoſe in the Duke of York's intereſt, being lodged within the City, at the Black Friars.

The reaſon given is—their mutual convenience; the real one perhaps, political; though as the meetings were held at different times of the day, the Lords of each Party might be preſent.

Hollingſhed ſays, that the King's Friends met in the Chapter Houſe in Weſtminſter.

[2] Humphrey Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, was ſlain in the battle of Northampton, in 1460, where he commanded with the Duke of Somerſet.

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LETTER XXXVIII.

To my Maſter Faſtolf, at Caiſter, in haſte.

LIKE it your Maſterſhip to weet, that as for tidings, the [1] Council is, the forenoon, at the Black Friars, for the eaſe of reſorting of the Lords that are within the town; and, at afternoon, at the White Friars in Fleet-ſtreet, for the Lords without the town; and all things ſhall come to a good concluſion with God's Grace; for the King ſhall come hither this week, and the Queen alſo, as ſome men ſay, and my Lords [2] Buckingham, and [3] Stafford with her, and much people.

My Lord of [4] Canterbury taketh great pain upon him daily, and will write unto you the certainty of ſuch tidings as fall; and ſhould have done ere this time, ſave for that he would know an end of the matter.

Other tidings here are none, ſave my Lord of Exeter is

[3] Henry Stafford, Earl of Stafford, grandſon to the Duke of Buckingham, ſucceeded him in 1460; and was the principal inſtrument in raiſing Richard III. to the Throne; but afterwards plotting againſt him, he was obliged to retire from Court, and conceal himſelf; when being treacherouſly betrayed, he was taken and beheaded without any form of trial, in 1483.

[4] Thomas Bourchier, Archbiſhop of Canterbury, and Cardinal, lived 51 years after his firſt conſecration to the Biſhoprick of Worceſter, during 32 of which he filled the See of Canterbury, and died very old in 1486. He appears here in the Character of a good man, uſing all his endeavours to forward the reconciliation.

He was a Friend and Correſpondent of Sir John Faſtolf.

y^t^ y^e^ Erle of Warwyk ſhall kepe y^e^ ſee and hath y^r^fore rec^d^ yis weke m^l^ li. of y^e^ [5] Hanup'e.

The meſſenger was on horſbak whanne I wrote yow yis bill and y^r^fore it was doon in haſte and our Lord J'hu kepe yow.

Writen at London y^e^ Wedneſday aft^r^. [6] Midlenton.

And my Lord of Caunt^r^bury tolde me yat ye [7] ffrenche men have ben before yow, and y^t^ ye ſhotte many gonnes and ſo he tolde all y^e^ Lords I have deſirid hym to move y^e^ Counſell for refreſhing of y^e^ toun of Yermowth w^t^ ſtuff of ordnance and gonnes and gonne powdre and he ſeid he wolde.

Yo^r^ humble S^r^vaunt,

[8] J. Bokking.

[8] ½ by 4 ½.

[5] The Hanaper was the Office where the King's Treaſures were kept, and was at this time, I believe, another name for the Exchequer.

[6] The firſt Sunday in Lent happened in the year 1457-8, on the 19th of February, and Midlent Sunday on the 12th of March.

LETTER XXXIX.

Unto my Ryght Wurchipfull Coſyn Marget Paſton yis lett. be delyu-ed in haſte.

RYGHT Wurchipfull and my moſte beſte beloved Mayſtres and Coſyn I Recommaund me unto you as lowly as I may ev^r^mor deſyring to here of your gode welfar y^e^ whiche I beſeche

diſpleaſed that the Earl of Warwick ſhall keep the Sea, and hath therefore received this week 1000l. of the [5] Hanaper.

The meſſenger was on horſeback when I wrote you this bill, and therefore it was done in haſte, and our Lord Jeſu keep you. Written at London the Wedneſday after [6] Midlent.

And my Lord of Canterbury told me that the [7] Frenchmen have been before you, and that ye ſhot many Guns, and ſo he told all the Lords.

I have deſired him to move the Council for refreſhing of the Town of Yarmouth with ſtuff of Ordnance, and Guns and Gunpowder, and he ſaid he would.

Your Humble Servant,

[8] JOHN BOKKING.

London,
Wedneſday, 15th of March,
1457-8, 36 H. VI.

[7] During the year 1457, the French made ſeveral attempts upon our Coaſts, but without much effect.

[8] John Bokking, was one of Sir John Faſtolf's Houſehold, and the impreſſion on the Seal appears to be a Goat, though it is difficult to determine it. Pl. XIV. N° 11. Autograph. Pl. III. N° 33.

LETTER XXXIX.

Unto my right worſhipful Couſin, Margaret Paſton, this Letter be delivered in haſte.

RIGHT worſhipful, and my moſt beſt beloved Miſtreſs and Couſin, I recommend me unto you as lowly as I may, evermore deſiring to hear of your good welfare; the which I beſeech

beſeche Almyzthy J'hs to p'ſ'rve you and kepe you to his pleſur and to your g'cious herts deſyre.

And yf it pleſe you to here of my welfar I was in gode hele at y^e^ makyng of yis l're bleſſed be God. Prayng you y^t^ it pleſe you for to ſend me worde yf my fadyr wer at Norwiche w^t^ you at ys Trenite Maſſe or no and how y^e^ matyr dothe be twene my mayſtres Blawnche Wychynham and me and yf ze ſopoſe y^t^ it ſhall be brought a bowte or no and how ze fele my fadyr yf he be wele wyllyng therto or no, prayng you lowly y^t^ I may be recomaund lowly unto my Mayſtres Arblaſtres wyfe and unto my Mayſtres Blawnche her Dowzther ſpecially.

Ryght wurchipfull Coſyn yf it pleſe you for to her of ſuche tydings as we have her y^e^ Baſſet of Burgoyne ſchall come to Calleys y^e^ Saturday eftyr Corpus Xp'i day as men ſay v hondred horſe of hem.

Moreover on Trenite ſonday in y^e^ mornyng came Tydings unto my Lord of Warwyke y^t^ yer were xxviij^te^ Sayle of Spaynyards on y^e^ Se and wherof yer was xvj grete Schippis of Forecaſtell and then my Lord went and manned fyve Schippis of [1] forecaſtell and iij [2] Carvells and iiij [3] Spynnes and on y^e^ monday on y^e^ mornyng eftyr Trenite Sonday we met to gedyr afore

The Beginning of this Letter, after the uſual commendations, refers to a marriage that ſeemed in agitation for the Writer; the other part gives a moſt particular and curious account of a Sea Engagement, in which the Writer was preſent and bore a part, between the Earl of Warwick and the Spaniards; about which our Hiſtorians are much divided, as to what Nation the Ships taken, belonged, &c.

From this authentic Narrative it appears that the Earl took ſix of the trading Ships of Spain, and then was obliged to retreat, and ſecure them and himſelf in Calais; the immediate exchange of Priſoners is a curious piece of intelligence.

This

beſeech Almighty Jeſu to preſerve you, and keep you to his pleaſure, and to your gracious heart's deſire.

And if it pleaſe you to hear of my welfare, I was in good hele [*health*] at the making of this Letter, bleſſed be God; praying you, that it pleaſe you for to ſend me word, if my Father were at Norwich with you at this Trinity Maſs or no, and how the matter doth between my Miſtreſs Blanch Witchingham and me; and if ye ſuppoſe that it ſhall be brought about or no, and how ye feel my Father, if he be well willing thereto or no; praying you lowly that I may be recommended lowly unto my Miſtreſs, Arblaſter's wife, and unto my Miſtreſs Blanch her Daughter ſpecially.

Right worſhipful Couſin, if it pleaſe you for to hear of ſuch tidings as we have here, the Baſſet [*Embaſſy*] of Burgundy ſhall come to Calais the Saturday after Corpus Chriſti day, as men ſay five hundred horſe of them.

Moreover, on Trinity Sunday in the morning, came tidings unto my Lord of Warwick, that there were 28 ſail of Ships on the Sea, and whereof there was 16 great Ships of Forecaſtle; and then my Lord went, and manned five Ships of [1] Forecaſtle and three [2] Carvells and four [3] Spynnes; and on the Monday, in the morning after Trinity Sunday, we met together afore

This battle was fought on Monday the 29th of May, 1458, 36 H. VI. Hollinſhed ſays this Sea Engagement was fought about Midſummer 1459, &c.

A Commiſſion of Enquiry concerning this Engagement was granted in July 1458.

[1] Ships of Forecaſtle were ſhips with Foreſtages, and carried about 150 men each; they were the largeſt ſhips then in uſe.

A Barge carried about 80 men, and a Balynger about 40.

[2] Carvels were ſhips of a middle ſize.

[3] Spinnes or Pinnaces, carried about 25 men each.

Calais

afore Caleis at iiij at y^e^ clokke in y^e^ mornyng and fawz thet gedyr till x at y^e^ clokke and ther we toke vj of her ſchippis and they ſlowe of oure men aboute iiij^xx^ and hurt a ij hondred of us ryght ſore and ther wer ſlayne on theyr p'te abowte xij^x^ and hurt a v hondred of them.

And haped me at y^e^ fyrſte abordyng of us we toke a Schippe of iij^c^ ton, and I was lefte therin and xxiij men w^t^ me and thei fawzthe ſo for y^t^ our men wer fayne to leve hem and go the [4] and then come they and aborded y^e^ Schippe y^t^ I was in and ther I was taken and was p'ſoner w^t^ them vj houris and was delyv'd agayne for theyr men y^t^ wer taken beforne and as men ſayne ther was not ſo gret a Batayle upon y^e^ Se yis xl wyntyr, and for ſothe we wer wele and trewly bette, and my Lord hathe ſent for mor ſcheppis and lyke to fyzthe to gedyr agayne in haſte.

Nomor I write unto you at yis tyme but y^t^ it pleſe you for to recomaund me unto my ryght Reverent and wurchipfull Coſyn your huſband and myn ownkll Gournay and to myn Awnte his wyfe and to alle gode Mayſters and Frends where it ſchall pleſe you and eftyr y^e^ writyng I have from you I ſchall be at you in alle haſte.

Wretyn on [5] Corpus X'pi day in gret haſte.

Be your owne umble S^t^vant and Coſyn,

[6] John Jernyngan.

11 ¼ by 8 ½.

Paper Mark,
Bull's Head and Star.
Pl. ix. N° 12.

LET-

[4] Theſe words are ſtruck aoroſs in the Original Letter.

[5] Is always on the Thurſday after Trinity Sunday, which fell this year on the 28th of May.

[6] The Family of Jernegan, or Jerningham, has been a family of Diſtinction, in Norfolk and Suffolk, ever ſince the Conqueſt, and at preſent flouriſhes at Coſſey in Norfolk.

Calais at four at the clock in the morning, and fought together till ten at the clock; and there we took ſix of their Ships, and they ſlew of our men about four ſcore, and hurt a 200 of us right ſore; and there were ſlain on their part about 120, and hurt a 500 of them.

And happed me, at the firſt aboarding of us, we took a Ship of 300 ton, and I was left therein, and 23 men with me; and they fought ſo ſore that our men were fain to leave them [4] and go the and then come they and aboarded the Ship that I was in, and there I was taken, and was priſoner with them ſix hours, and was delivered again for their men that were taken before; and, as men ſay, there was not ſo great a battle upon the Sea this forty winters; and forſooth we were well and truly beat, and my Lord hath ſent for more Ships, and like to fight together again in haſte.

No more I write unto you at this time, but that it pleaſe you for to recommend me unto my right reverend, and worſhipful Couſin your huſband, and mine Uncle Gournay, and to mine Aunt his wife, and to all good Maſters and Friends, where it ſhall pleaſe you; and after the writing I have from you, I ſhall be at you in all haſte.

Written on [5] Corpus Chriſti day in great haſte.

By your own humble Servant and Couſin,

[6] JOHN JERNYNGAN.

Calais,
Corpus Chriſti day,
Thurſday, 1ſt of June,
1458, 36 H. VI.

John Jernegan appears to have had a command in this Engagement, he was (by the pedigree) the Son of John Jernegan, who died in 1474, and married in 1459, Iſabel, Daughter and heir of Sir Jarvis Clifton, Kt. and died himſelf in 1503. Pl. 111. N° 34.

LETTER XL.

To my Maiſtr Paſton.

I Recomaund me unto your good Maiſt'ſhip, and as for tidings Arblaſt' come home to my Lord on mu'day at ſop'tyme and my maiſtr Danyell is Styward of the Duche of Lancaſtre by yonde Trent, and Arblaſtr ſeith he hath made me his Undirſtyward. And as for the Chamb'leynſhip of Inglond the Lord Beamond hath it, and the Lord Rivers Conſtable of Inglond.

As for the Duche on this ſide Trent Sr. Thomas Tudenh'm had a joynte patent wt the Duke of Suffolk, which if it be reſumed Sr. Thomas Stanley hath a bille redy endoſſed theeof.

My Lord wole not to Leiceſtr. My Maiſtr Danyell deſireth yow thedir. I ſhall ride thiderward on friday by tymes.

Wretyn in haſt at Wynche the xiij day of May.

I p'y yow to thynk upon my mat' to my maſtreſſe yor wyf for my maſtreſſe Anne for in good feith I haf fully conquered my Lady ſith ye went ſo that I haf hir p'miſſe to be my good Lady and that ſhe ſhall help me by the feith of hir body.

Yor. S'vñt,

11 ¾ by 5 ½.

[1] Deupes.

LET-

I have given this Letter as containing ſeveral promotions to offices in the State, but I cannot aſcertain the Date. It muſt have been, I think, in the latter part of the reign of Henry VI.

Sir

LETTER XL.

To my Maſter Paſton.

I Recommend me unto your good Maſterſhip, and as for Tidings, Arblaſter came home to my Lord on Monday at ſupper time; and my Maſter Daniel is Steward of the Duchy of Lancaſter beyond Trent, and Arblaſter ſaith, he hath made me his under-ſteward.

And as for the Chamberlainſhip of England, the Lord Beaumont hath it, and the Lord Rivers *(is)* Conſtable of England.

As for the Duchy on this ſide Trent, Sir Thomas Tudenham had a joint Patent with the Duke of Suffolk, which, if it be reſumed, Sir Thomas Stanley hath a bill ready endorſed thereof.

My Lord will not to Leiceſter. My maſter Daniel deſireth you thither. I ſhall ride thitherward on Friday by times.

Written in haſte at Winch, the 13th day of May.

I pray you to think upon my matter to my miſtreſs your wife, for my miſtreſs Anne, for in good faith, I have fully conquered my Lady ſince ye went, ſo that I have her promiſe to be my good Lady; and that ſhe ſhall help me by the faith of her body.

Your Servant,

[1] DENYES.

Winch, 13th of May,
145—, H. VI.

Sir Thomas Stanley died in 1458 or 1459.
He was ſucceeded by his Son Sir Thomas, who, in 1461, was created Lord Stanley.

[1] Autograph. Pl. 111. N° 35.

LETTER XLI.

To the worſhipful and my right welbeloved Coſyn John Paſton at the Temple, or to William Barker at Suthwerk be y^s delu'ed.

WORSHIPFUL Coſyn I comaunde me to yow and where as I late wrote unto yow in a l're by Henre Hanſſon for the Fundacōn of my College, I am ſoore ſette therupon and that is the cauſe I write now to remembre yow agayn to meve my Lords of [1] Cant'bury and [2] Wyncheſtre for the licence to be opteined that I might have the morteiſying withowte ony grete fyne in recompence of my longe ſ'viſe contynued and doon un to the Kyng and to his noble Fader whom God aſſoile and neu'e yette guerdoonned or rewarded.

And now ſithe I have ordeyned to make the Kyng Founder and eu'e to be prayed fore and for his right noble p'genitors hiſe [3] ſſader and [4] uncles me thinketh I ſhuld not be denyed of my deſire but the rather to be remembrid and ſpedde.

Wherfore as I wrote un to yow I p'y yow acqueynte me and yow for the rather ſpede here of with a Chapelleyn of my Lord of Caunt'bury that in yo^r abſence may remembre me and in like wiſe with my Lord Chaunceller for ſeyng the Kyngs diſpo-

We here ſee the anxiety of an old man, wiſhing, according to the ſuperſtition of the time, to be permitted to found a College to the health of his Soul, and his future happineſs.

[1] Thomas Bourchier.

[2] William de Wainfleet.

ſicon

LETTER XLI.

To the worſhipful, and my right well beloved Couſin, John Paſton, at the Temple, or to William Barker, at Southwark, be this delivered.

WORSHIPFUL Couſin, I commend me to you, and whereas I late wrote unto you, in a Letter by Henry Hanſſon, for the foundation of my College; I am ſore ſet thereupon; and that is the cauſe I write now, to remember you again to move my Lords of [1] Canterbury and [2] Wincheſter for the Licenſe to be obtained, that I might have the amortizing without any great Fine; in recompence of my long ſervice continued, and done unto the King, and to his noble Father, whom God aſſoil, and never yet guerdoned [*recompenſed*] or rewarded.

And now ſince I have ordained to make the King Founder, and ever to be prayed for; and for his right noble Progenitors, his [3] Father and [4] Uncles, methinketh I ſhould not be denied of my deſire, but the rather to be remembered and ſped.

Wherefore, as I wrote unto you, I pray you acquaint me and you, for the rather ſpeed hereof, with a Chaplain of my Lord of Canterbury, that in your abſence may remember me, and in like wiſe with my Lord Chancellor; for ſeeing the

[3] Henry V.
[4] Thomas Duke of Clarence, ſlain in France in 1421.
John, Duke of Bedford, died at Rouen, in 1435.
Humphry, Duke of Glouceſter, murdered at Bury, in 1446.

ſicon and alſo hiſe un to the edyfyeng of God is ſ'vice it myght in noo bettyr tyme be mevid, &c.

My Lord of [5] Norff is remevid from Framlyngh'm on foote to goo to Walſyngh'm and deily I wayte y[t] he wolde come hidre.

Your Coſyn,

[6] J. Faſtolf.

11 ¾ by 5 ¼.

Paper Mark,
Bull's Head and Star.
Pl. VIII. N° 2.

[5] John Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, on a pilgrimage to Walſingham.

LETTER XLIJ.

To my ryght worſhipfull Unkle and my Ryght good Maſter Syr John Faſtalf Knyght.

RYGHT worſhipfull Unkull and my Ryght good Maſter, I recomaund me to yow wyth all my ſervys.

And S[r] my Broy[r] Paſton and I have comened togeder as touchinge to yo[r] [1] Colage y[t] ye wold have made, and S[r]. hit ys to gret a good y[t] ys axed of yow for youre lycens for they ax for ev[r]y C m'rc y[t] ye wold amortyſe D m'rcz, and woll gefe hit noo better chepe.

And S[r]. y told my brother Paſton y[t] my Lady of [2] Bargeveney hath

[1] This is the College, which Sir John Faſtolf intended to have founded at Caiſter, by Yarmouth, in Norfolk.

[2] Elizabeth, Daughter and heir of Richard Beauchamp, Earl of Worceſter, (Son and heir

King's Diſpoſition, and alſo his, unto the edifying of God's ſervice, it might in no better time be moved, &c.

My Lord of [5] Norfolk is removed from Framlingham on foot to go to Walſingham, and daily I wait that he would come hither.

Your Couſin,

[6] JOHN FASTOLF.

Caiſter,
18th of November,
Before 1459, 38 H. VI.

[6] Autograph. Pl. 11. N° 15.

LETTER XLII.

To my right worſhipful Uncle, and my right good Maſter, Sir John Faſtolf, Knight.

RIGHT worſhipful Uncle, and my right good Maſter, I recommend me to you with all my ſervice.

And, Sir, my Brother Paſton and I have communed together as touching to your [1] College that ye would have made, and Sir, it is too great a good [*Sum*] that is aſked of you for your Licenſe; for they aſk for every 100 marks that ye would amortiſe [*ſettle by the ſtatute of Mortmain*] 500 marks, and will give it no better cheap [*grant no better bargain.*]

And Sir, I told my Brother Paſton, that my Lady [2] Aberga-

venny

heir of William Beauchamp, Lord Bergavenny,) and wife of Sir Edward Nevile, a younger Son of Ralph, firſt Earl of Weſtmorland, who by this marriage was ſummoned as Lord Bergavenny, in 1450.

hath in dyv's Abbeyes in Leyc'ſhyre vij or viij preſtes Singinge for her p'petuell by my Brother Darcyes and my Unkle Brokeſbyes meanes for they were her Execut'rs, and they acorded for [3] money and gafe a cc or ccc m'rc, as yey myzt acord for a Preſt.

And for y^e [4] Suerte y^t he ſhuld ſynge in y^e ſame abbey for ev^r, They had man^rs of good valew bounden to ſuch p'ſones as pleſed y^e ſayd Barth^rn Brokkeſby and my Broy^r Darcy, y^t y^e ſayd f^rvyſe ſhulde be kept.

And for lytell moore yen y^e Kynge axed hem for a Lycence y^cy went thorgh w^t y^e ſayd Abbots.

And y hold this wey as ſure as that other, ye may comen w^t youre Councell therof.

And yf y^r be any f^rvyſe y^t y can do for yow hit ſhall be redy at all tymes w^t y^e g'ce of God who have yow in his kepynge.

Wryten at Londō y^e xvij day of Juyll.

Yo^r Nevew and Servñt,

12 by 7 ½.

[5] Henry Fylungley.

Paper Mark,
Two Pales within a lozenge ſhield,
ſurmounted by a Coronet.
Pl. ix. N° 13.

LET-

[3] It is a generally received opinion that the Prieſts were the moſt exorbitant in their demands on every occaſion, but here it ſeems otherwiſe, for the King (*or his Miniſters*) required 500 Marks for a Licenſe for every 100 Marks that were intended to be ſettled in Mortmain.

It appears, however, by this Letter that Contracts might be made with the Abbots, &c. on much more moderate terms, for the performance of Maſſes, &c. and equally ſecure, even without the King's Licenſe.

We are here informed that a demand had been made upon the Executors of Lady Bergavenny

venny hath in diverſe Abbeys in Leiceſterſhire, ſeven or eight Prieſts ſinging for her perpetually, by my Brother Darcy's and my Uncle Brokeſby's means, for they were her Executors; and they accorded [*agreed*] for [3] money and gave a 200 or 300 marks, as they might accord [*agree*] for a Prieſt.

And for the [4] Surety that he ſhould ſing in the ſame Abbey for ever, they had Manors of good value bounden to ſuch Perſons as pleaſed the ſaid Brethren, Brokeſby, and my Brother Darcy, that the ſaid ſervice ſhould be kept.

And for little more than the King aſked them for a Licenſe, they went through with the ſaid Abbots.

And I hold this way as ſure as that other; ye may commune with your Counſel thereof.

And if there be any ſervice that I may do for you, it ſhall be ready at all times with the grace of God, who have you in his keeping.

Written at London, the 17th day of July.

Your Nephew and Servant,

[5] HENRY FYLUNGLEY.

London, 17th of July.
Before 1459, 38 H. VI.

Bergavenny of nearly as much Money, *for a Licenſe to found*, as it actually took to found a Service for her.

[4] This is a curious fact, as it ſhows us how ſecurity was given by the Abbies, &c. to the Parties contracting for a Maſs or Service, that it ſhould be continued for ever in the ſame Abbey, &c.

[5] He appears from other Letters to have been a Lawyer, and was connected with the Paſtons, &c. by marriage. Pl. 111. N° 36.

This Letter was written during the latter part of the life of Sir John Faſtolf, perhaps not long before his death, which happened in 1459. Pl. xiv. N° 12.

LETTER XLIII.

To my full ſpeciall gode Maiſter John Paſton.

WORSHIPFULL Sr. and my full ſpeciall goode Maiſter after humble recommendacion Pleaſe it you to underſtand that ſuch ſ'vice as I can doo to yor pleiſr as to myn underſtandyng I have ſhewed my diligence nowe this ſhorte ſeaſon ſithen yor dep'tyng, and in eſpeciall aboute ſuche a copie of a [1] Foundacion as yor Maiſterſhip com'aunded me to gete you a copie of, of the which I ſende unto you at this tyme by m'y Broder William Worceſtre iij copies writen by Luket, becauſe I had no leiſr but ſomoch beſenes in ſettyng forth my Maiſtr of the Rolles at this tyme and in all this Kyngs deies ye can have noon oder accordyng any thing to yor entent.

And as for the names of the Poles, William hath more writyng than ye and I coude fynde foundon by labor made by hym and me. And alſo Sr. he hath cauſed me to examyn olde and mony Records writen by ſome Frenſhman conc'nyng the Manour of Dedham that was a comborous labour for theſe copies were full defectif as it apereth by the correctyng of them.

It', Sr. I may ſey to you that William hath goon to Scole to a Lumbard

[1] This Letter is chiefly curious for the account which it gives us of William Worceſter's attention to Learning and fondneſs for Poetry and Books.

LETTER XLIII.

To my full ſpecial good Maſter, John Paſton.

WORSHIPFUL Sir, and my full ſpecial good Maſter, after humble recommendation, pleaſe it you to underſtand, that ſuch ſervice as I can do to your pleaſure, as to mine underſtanding, I have ſhewed my diligence now the ſhort ſeaſon ſince your departing, and in ſpecial, about ſuch a Copy of a [1] Foundation, as your maſterſhip commanded me to get you a Copy of; of the which I ſend unto you at this time, by my Brother William Worceſter, three Copies written by Luket, becauſe I had no leiſure, but ſo much buſineſs in ſetting forth of my Maſter of the Rolls; at this time, and in all this King's days ye can have none other according any thing to your intent.

And as for the names of the Poles, William hath more writing than ye and I could find, found by labour made by him and me.

And alſo Sir, he hath cauſed me to examine old and many Records written by ſome Frenchman concerning the Manor of Dedham, that was a cumberous labour, for theſe Copies were full defective, as it appeareth by the correcting of them.

Item, Sir, I may ſay to you, that William hath gone to

We find too that the Archbiſhop of Canterbury, Thomas Bourchier, purſued the diverſion of hunting, &c.

[1] For Sir J. Faſtolf's College at Caiſter.

Lumbard called Karoll Giles to lern and to bered in poetre or els in Frenſh ffor he hath byn w^{t} the ſame Caroll eu'y dey ij tymes or iij. And hath bought diu's Boks of hym for the which as I ſuppoſe he hath put hymſelf in daunger to the ſame Karoll. I made a mocion to William to have knoen part of his beſines and he anſwered and ſeid that he wold be as glad and as feyn of a good Boke of Frenſh or of Poetre as my Maiſtr Faſtolf wold be to p'chace a faire Manoir and therby I underſtand he liſt not to be cōmynd with all in ſuch matiers.

It'm, S^{r}. as for any tidings William can tell you here at London ar but full fewe, but Henry Bourgchier is ded ſodenly at Ludlowe, my Lord of Caunterbury and my Lord [2] Bourgchier ſhall be this wyk at Hunneſdon and hunte and ſporte theym w^{t} S^{r}. William Oldhall.

At this tyme nothyng els to yo^{r} maiſterſhip but and it pleaſe you to remembre my maiſt^{r} at yo^{r} beſt leiſer wheder his old p'miſe ſhall ſtande as touchyng my p'ferryng to the Boreſhed in Suthwerke Sir I wold have byn at a noddr place and of my maiſters owun mocion he ſaid that I ſhold ſett uppon the Boreſhed in the which matier I reporte me to William Worceſtre, Bokkyng and Will'm Barker and moſt ſpecially to my maiſters awun remembraunce.

I know full well ther cann noo concluſion be taken to myn aſayle w'out helpe of your maiſterſhip unto the which I utt'ly ſubmitte me in this and in all oder. And our Lord J'hu p'ſerve you and all youres and ſend you your herts deſire w^{t} right.

[2] In 1461, he was created Earl of Eſſex.

Writen

School, to a Lumbard called Karoll Giles, to learn and to be read in Poetry, or elſe in French, for he hath been with the ſame Karoll every day two times or three; and hath bought divers Books of him, for the which as I ſuppoſe, he hath put himſelf in danger [*debt*] to the ſame Karoll.

I made a motion to William to have known part of his buſineſs, and he anſwered and ſaid; that he would be as glad and as feyn of a good Book of French, or of Poetry as my Maſter Faſto'f would be to purchaſe a fair manor; and thereby I underſtand, he liſt not to be communed withal in ſuch matters.

Item, Sir, as for any tidings, William can tell you, here at London are but full few, but Henry Bourchier is dead ſuddenly at Ludlow; my Lord of Canterbury and my Lord [2] Bourchier ſhall be this week at Hunſdon, and hunt and ſport them with Sir William Oldhall.

At this time, nothing elſe to your maſterſhip, but and it pleaſe you to remember my [3] Maſter at your beſt leiſure, whether his old promiſe ſhall ſtand, as touching my preferring to the Boar's Head in Southwark; Sir I would have been at another place, and of my Maſter's own motion, he ſaid that I ſhould ſet up in the Boar's Head, in the which matter I report me to William Worceſter, Bokking and William Barker, and moſt ſpecially to my Maſter's own remembrance; I know full well there can no concluſion be taken to mine avail without help of your maſterſhip, unto the which I utterly ſubmit me in this, and all other; and Our Lord Jeſu preſerve you and all yours, and ſend you your heart's deſire with right.

Written

Writen at London on ſonday next after Seynt Barthu' dey in haſt.

By your ſ'vñt,

[3] Henry Wyndeſore.

11 ¾ by 8 ½.

[3] Autograph. Pl. III. N° 32.

LETTER XLIII.

Tho my Ryth worſchopffull Hoſſebond John Paſton in haſt.

RYTHE Worchepfwl hoſbond I reco'mawnd me onto yow pleſyth yow to wete y[t] on thoriſday laſt was yer wer browt unto yis towne many Prevy Selis and on of hem was ĩdoſyd to yow and to Haſtynggys and to fyve or ſexe odyr Gẽtylmen and anodyr was ſẽt õto yowr ſone and ĩdoſyd to hym ſelfe alone and aſynyd wythiñe wyth ye Kynggys howyn hand and ſo wer bwt fewe y[t] wer ſẽt as it was told me and alſo ye[r] wer mor ſpecyal termys ĩ hys yẽ wern ĩ oderys I ſey a copy of yoo y[t] wer ſẽt õto odyr Gẽtylmẽ ye ĩtent of ye wrytyng was y[t] yey ſſhuwlde be wyth ye Kyngg at Leyceſt' ye x day of May wyth as many

We ſee in this Letter the method of raiſing men was by ſending a Letter under the Privy Seal, and ſometimes ſigned by the King himſelf, commanding the attendance of the perſons named, at a certain time and place, with men, &c. according to their degree. Theſe Privy Seals ſeem to have been iſſued in April, 1459, when the King, &c. were at

Written at London on Sunday next after Saint Bartholomew's day in haſte.

By your Servant,

[3] HENRY WYNDESORE.

London,
Sunday, Auguſt,
Before 1459, 38 H. VI.

3 One of Sir John Faſtolf's houſehold.

LETTER XLIV.

To my right worſhipful Huſband John Paſton, in haſte.

RIGHT worſhipful huſband, I recommend me unto you, pleaſeth you to weet, that on Thurſday laſt was, there were brought unto this town many Privy Seals, and one of them was indorſed to you, and to Haſtyngs, and to five or ſix other Gentlemen; and another was ſent unto your Son, and indorſed to himſelf alone, and aſſigned [*ſigned*] within with the King's own hand; and ſo were but few that were ſent, as it was told me; and alſo, there were more ſpecial terms in his than were in others; I ſaw a Copy of thoſe that were ſent unto other Gentlemen; the intent of the writing was, that they ſhould be with the King at Leiceſter the 10th day of

at Coventry, raiſing an army to oppoſe the Duke of York and the Earl of Saliſbury.
And if J. Paſton's Son herein mentioned was his eldeſt, he might then be about 18 or 20 years of age.

many p'ſonys defenſebylly arayid as yey myte acordyng to her degre and y^t yey ſchwld bryng wyth hem for her expēſys for ij monythis.

As ſor ye lettyr y^t was īdoſyd to yow and to odyr it was delyveryd to Welyā Yelvyrton for yer aperyd no mor of ye remwlawnt.

Haſtynggys is forthe īto Yorke ſchyr I prey yow y^t ye vowcheſaf to ſend word ī haſt how ye wyl y^t yor Sone be demenyd herin. Men thynk her y^t ben yowr wel wyllerys y^t ye may no leſſe do yan to ſend hym forthe. As for hys demenyng ſwn ye departyd ī god feythe it hath ben ryth good and lowly and delygent īn ovyr ſythe of yowre ſervawntys and odyr thuggys ye whche I hope ye wold abe pleſyd wyth and ye had be at hom. I hope he wyl be well demenyd to pleſe yow heraftyrward. He deſyryd Alblaſter to bemene to yow for hym and was ryte hevy of hys 'demenyng to yow as I ſent yow word alſo be Alblaſter how I dede to hym aftyr y^t ye wer go and I beſeche yow hartyly y^t ye wocheſaf to be hys god fadyr for I hope he is ſchaſtyſyd and wil be y^e worher heraftyr.

As for alle odyr tynggys at hom I hope y^t I and odyr ſchal do howr part yer īne as wel as we may, bwt as for mony it comyth bwt ſlowly and God have yow ī hys kepyng and ſē yow good ſped ī alle yowr matteris.

Wretyn ī haſt at Norwece on y^e Sonday next befor' y^e [1] Aſſencyon day.

[1] In 1459, 37 Hen. VI. Whitſunday was the 13th of May; Aſcenſion day the 3d of May; the Sunday before, the 29th of April; and the Thurſday before that, the 26th. Theſe dates will agree with the time mentioned in the Privy Seals for their attendance.

Ser

May, with as many perſons defenſibly arrayed, as they might according to their degree, and that they ſhould bring with them for their expences for two months.

As for the Letter that was indorſed to you, and to others, it was delivered to William Yelverton, for there appeared no more of the remulaunt [*remaining*].

Haſtyngs is forth into Yorkſhire; I pray you that ye vouchſafe to ſend word in haſte, how ye will that your Son be demeaned herein. Men think here, that be your well willers, that ye may no leſs do than to ſend him forth.

As for his demeaning ſince ye departed, in good faith, it hath been right good, and lowly, and diligent, in overſight of your ſervants, and other things, the which I hope ye would have been pleaſed with, and ye had been at home; I hope he will be well demeaned to pleaſe you hereafterward.

He deſired Alblaſter to bemoan to you for him; and was right heavy of his demeaning to you, as I ſent you word alſo by Alblaſter, how I did to him after that ye were gone; and I beſeech you heartily, that ye vouchſafe to be his good Father, for I hope he is chaſtiſed, and will be the worthier hereafter.

As for all other things at home, I hope that I and others ſhall do our part therein, as well as we may; but as for money it cometh but ſlowly, and God have you in his keeping, and ſend you good ſpeed in all your matters.

Written in haſte at Norwich on the Sunday next before the [x] Aſcenſion-day.

Ser I wold be ryte glad to he ſwmme gode tydynggys fro yow.

Be yorys,

[2] W. P.

11 ½ by 4 ¾.
Paper Mark,
Bull's Head and Star.
Pl. VIII. N° 2.
Part of the Paper Mark is cut off.

[2] Autograph. Pl. II. N° 25.

LETTER XLI.

To my right Worſhipful Maiſtris Will'm Yelv'ton Juſtice John Paſton and Herr' Filongley and to eche of them.

RIGHT worſhipful Sres I recomaunde me to yow and like it yow to wete that my lord Chaunceller is right good and tendre lord in all your mat'es and ſoo wil contynue and my lord Treſorier in like wiſe whiche bothen have anſwerid Wyndham not aldermoſte to hiſe pleſir becauſe of his noiſeful langage ſeyng how he myght have noo lawe and that my lord Chaunceller was not made executor but for meigntenñce w^t many othir woordis noo ying p'fitable ner furtheryng his entents as for ony p'ticuler mat'es the p'lament as yet abideth upon the grete mat'es of atteyndre and forfetur and ſoo y'e

This Letter, was written at Coventry, where the Parliament appears to have met, after the Deſertion of ſome, and the Surrender of others of the Duke of York's Troops to

Sir, I would be right glad to hear ſome good tidings from you.

By yours,

MARGARET PASTON.

Norwich,
Sunday, 29 April,
1459, 37 H. VI.

LETTER XLV.

To my right worſhipful Maſters, William Yelverton Juſtice, John Paſton, and Henry Filongley, and to each of them.

RIGHT worſhipful Sirs, I recommend me to you, and like it you to *know*, that my Lord Chancellor is a right good and tender Lord in all your matters, and ſo will continue; and my Lord Treaſurer in like wiſe, which *both* have anſwered Wyndham not *altogether* to his pleaſure, becauſe of his noiſeful language; ſaying how he might have no law, and that my Lord Chancellor was not made Executor but for maintenance, with many other words nothing profitable nor furthering his intents. As for any particular matters, the Parliament, as yet, abideth upon the great matters of Attainder and Forfeiture;

to the Army of Henry VIth. commanded by the Dukes of Somerſet and Exeter, near Ludlow, in October, 1459; and though it contains chiefly accounts of a private nature, yet as a Liſt of thoſe there attainted is affixed, it ſeemed worthy of inſertion.

y'e be many and div'ſe p'ticuler billes put inne but noon redde ner touchyng us as nygh as we can herken to whiche Playter and I attenden daily truſtyng on my lords aboveſeid my lord p've ſeall and other good lords and many alſo of your acquayntance and owres that and ony thing be we ſhall ſone have knowlege.

The chief Juſtice is right herty and ſeith ful wel and kyndely of my maiſt' whom J'hu for his m'cy p'donne and have yow in his bleſſid gou'naunce Writen at Coventre the morwne aft' ſeint [1] Nich'.

And as to money I delyu'ed un to the Undertreſouer a l're from Maiſt' Filongley and I fonde hym right wele diſpoſid to doo that may pleaſe yow in all our mat'es and take noo money of hym as yette for we have noo nede to ſpende ony ſumes as yette ner w[t] gods g'ce ſhall not have I come to this town of Coventre ſuche day ſevenyght as the p'lement byganne and as for ſuche things as I coude herken aftyr I ſende to Will'm Worcetre a grete bille of tidings to ſhewe yow and all yeſt'day in the mornyng come inne therle of [2] Penbroke w[t] a good felechip, and the Ducheſſe of [3] York come yeſt'even late as the bring' here of ſhall more plenily declare yow to whom ye like to gif credence, The Buſhop of [4] Exceſter and the lord Grey [5] Ruthyn have declarid them ful worſhipfuly

[1] St. Nicholas's Day, 6th of December.

[2] Jaſper of Hatfield, half brother to Henry VI. Earl of Pembroke.

[3] Cicely, Daughter of Ralph Neville, Earl of Weſtmoreland; ſhe was deprived of all her Goods, &c.

to

and ſo there be many, and diverſe particular bills put in, but none ready, nor touching us, as nigh as we can hearken, to which Playters and I attend daily, truſting on my Lords aboveſaid, my Lord Privy Seal and other good Lords, and many alſo of your acquaintance, and ours; that *if* any thing be, we ſhall ſoon have knowledge. The Chief Juſtice is right well and hearty, and ſayeth full well and kindly of my Maſter, whom Jeſu for his mercy pardon, and have you in his bleſſed governance. Written at Coventry the morrow after St. [1] Nicholas. And as to money, I delivered unto the Under-reaſurer a Letter from Maſter Fylongley, and I found him right well diſpoſed to do that may pleaſe you in all our matters; and took no money of him as yet, for we have no need to ſpend any ſums as yet, nor with God's grace ſhall not have. I came to this town of Coventry, ſuch day ſev'night as the parliament began; and as for ſuch things as I could hearken after, I ſend to William Worceſter a great bill of tidings to ſhew you and all.

Yeſterday in the morning, came in the Earl of [2] Pembroke with a good Fellowſhip; and the Ducheſs of [3] York came yeſter evening late, as the Bringer hereof ſhall more plainly declare *(to)* you, to whom ye like to give credence.

The Biſhop of [4] Exeter and the Lord Grey *of* [5] Ruthin have declared them full worſhipfully to the King's great pleaſure.

[4] George Neville, ſixth Son of Richard, Earl of Saliſbury, and brother of Richard, Earl of Warwick; he was afterwards Archbiſhop of York.

[5] Edmund Lord Grey, of Ruthin, afterwards Earl of Kent.

Playters

to the Kings grete plesir Playter and I writen you a l're by Norft' yoman for ye Kyngs mouth.

Your,

11 ½ by 3 ½. [6] John Bokking.

The following Liſt of thoſe of the Duke of York's Party who were attainted by Parliament is pinned to the above Letter.

The Duc of York	Sr Thom's o Parre	John Oter
Therle of Marche	Sr. John Conyers	Maiſtr Ric Fiſher
Therle of Rutland	Sr. John Wenlok	Haſtyngs and oy' that as yet we can not know y'e names, &c.
Therle of Warrwyk	Sr. Will'm Oldhall	
Therle of Saluſbury	Edward Bourghcier ſq.	
The lord Powys	A Broy' of his	
The lord Clynton	Thom's Vaugh'n	As for ye Lord Powys he come inne and hadde g'ce as for his lyf but as for hiſe gods ye forfeture paſſid.
[7] The Counteſſe of Sarr	Thom's Colte	
Sr. Thomas Nevyle	Thomas Clay	
Sr. John Nevyle	John Denham	
Sr. Thom's Haryngton	Thomas Moryng	

[6] John Bokking, was in employment under J. Paſton. Pl. III. N° 33.

LETTER XLIV.

To the Ryght Worſhypfull Sr. John [1] Berneye ſcuier at Caſtre beyng.

RYGHT Worſhypfull Sr. I Recom'aund me to yow *(Here follow complaints againſt Frere Brakle, &c. concerning Sir John Faſtolf's interment, affairs, &c.)*

As for tydyngs here I ſende ſom of hend wreten to you and othyrs

[1] John Berney, Eſquire, appears to have been the Son of John Berney, by Iſabell, Daughter and heir of Sir John Heveningham, Knight, and died without iſſue, in 1461.

Playters and I *(have)* written you a Letter by Norff, Yeoman for the King's mouth.

Your,

[6] JOHN BOKKING.

7th of December, 1459.
38 H. VI.
Coventry.

[7] Alice, Daughter and heir of Thomas Montague, Earl of Saliſbury, wife of Richard Neville, in her right, Earl of Saliſbury.

LETTER XLVI.

To the Right Worſhipful Sir, John [1] Berneye, Eſquire, at Caſtre being.

RIGHT Worſhipful Sir, I recommend me to you. *(Here follow Complaints againſt Fryer Brakle, &c. concerning Sir John Faſtolf's interment, affairs, &c. &c.)*

As to tydings here, I ſend ſome off hand, writen to you and

He had ſerved under Sir John Faſtolf, in the wars in France, as appears by a part of this letter where W. Wyrceſter ſays, "you had verrey and faythfull loſe to my Maiſtr yn "the yeers and dayes that ye dyd hym ſ'vice yn the werrs and ſuffred pryſonment and "manye a ſherp day for hys ſake not rewarded."

others,

othyrs how the lord [2] Ryvers Sr. [3] Antonye hys ſon and othyrs hafe [4] wonne Calix be a feble aſſault made at Sandwch by [5] Denham ſquyer wt the nombre of viijc men on twyeſday betwene iiij and v at cloks yn the mornyng but my lady [6] ducheſſe ys ſtille ayen rec'ved yn Kent the duke of York ys at Debylyn ſtrengthed wt hys Erles and homagers as ye ſhall ſee by a bille God ſende the Kyng victorie of hys ennemyes and reſt and peaſe among hys Lordes.

I am rygt gretly hevyed for my pore wyfe for the ſorow ſhe takyth and moſt leefe hyr and hyr contree. Y ſhall nothing take from hyr more then a litell ſpendyng money tille bett' may bee and the bleſſed trinite kepe and ſende you helth Wret at London haſtly the monday aft' I departed from you 1459, x.

Your,

[7] W. Botoner, called Wyrceſter.

[2] [3] } See Notes 2, 4, to the following Letter, N° XLVII.

[4] The Expreſſion of Lord Rivers, &c. having won Calais, ſeems to be meant as a ſneer upon him, as he commanded the Ships going to the Duke of Somerſet with Supplies to enable him to drive out the Earl of Warwick from Calais, and take poſſeſſion of it as Governor under the King's Commiſſion.

[5] John Denham, Eſq. afterwards Sir John Denham.

LET.

others, how the Lord [2] Rivers, Sir [3] Anthony his Son, and others, have [4] won Calais, by a feeble aſſault made at Sandwich by [5] Denham, Eſquire, with the number of eight hundred men, on Tueſday between four and five o'clock in the morning. But my Lady [6] Ducheſs is ſtill again received in Kent. The Duke of York is at Dublin, ſtrengthened with his Earls and Homagers as ye ſhall ſee by a bill. God ſend the King victory of his Enemies, and reſt and peace amongſt his Lords. ———

I am right heartily heavied for my poor wife for the ſorrow ſhe taketh; and muſt leave her and her country; I ſhall nothing take from her more than a little ſpending money, till better may be. And the bleſſed Trinity keep and ſend you health. Written at London haſtily the Monday after I departed from you, 1459-10.

Your,

[7] W. BOTONER, called WYRCESTER.

London,
Monday, January,
1459, 38 H. VI.

[6] Cicely, Ducheſs of York.

[7] William Botoner, called Wyrceſter, was born in or about 1415, 3 H. V. had ſeveral appointments under Sir John Faſtolf, (who died on St. Leonard's day, 6th of November, 1459, aged above 80 years,) to whom he was Executor, and was not dead in 1480, 20 E. 4. Pl. 11. N° 24.

LETTER XLVIJ.

To his Right Worſhipfull Broth'r John Paſton be this l're delyv'ed.

AFTER dewe recomendacon' had, Pleaſe you to wete that we cam to London uppon the tewyſday by non' nexſt aftr our dep'to[r] fro Norwich and ſent our men to inquyre aft' my [1] Lord Chaunceler and Maiſt' John Stokys and Malmeſbury.

And as for my Lord Chañceler he was dep'ted fro London and was redyn to y[e] Kyng ij dayes er we were come to London, and as we underſtand he haſted hym to y[e] Kyng by cauſe of my Lord Ryv's takyng at Sandwyche, &c.

(Then follows a long Account of private Buſineſs, which is here omitted.)

As for tydyngs my Lord [2] Ryv's was brougth to Caleys and by for the Lords w[t] viij[xx] torches and there my Lord of Saleſbury reheted hym callyng hym [3] Knaves ſon that he ſchuld be ſo rude to calle hym and theſe oy' Lords traytors, for they ſchall be found the Kyngs treue liege men whan he ſchuld be found

This bold Plan, for ſurpriſing the Admiral, and taking his Fleet, was laid by the Earl of Warwick, &c. at Calais, and executed with ſucceſs by Sir John Dinham, at Sandwich, in January 1459. Lord Rivers and his Son when Priſoners, being only rated by the Lords, ſhews in them great moderation; as the cruelties uſually exerciſed on Priſoners of conſequence in the civil wars of thoſe ferocious times would have warranted their immediate execution.

[1] Laurence Booth, Biſhop of Durham.

a t'yto[r],

LETTER XLVII.

To his right worſhipful Brother, John Paſton, be this Letter delivered.

AFTER due recommendation had, Pleaſe you to wete, that we came to London upon the Tueſday by noon, next after our departure from Norwich, and ſent our men to enquire after my Lord [1]Chancellor, and Mr. John Stokes, and Malmeſbury. And as for my Lord Chancellor he was departed from London, and was rode to the King two days ere we were come to London; and as we underſtand, he haſted him to the King, becauſe of my Lord Rivers being taken at Sandwich, &c.

(Then follows a long Account of private Buſineſs, which is here omitted.)

As for Tidings, my Lord [2]Rivers was brought to Calais, and before the Lords with eight ſcore torches, and there my Lord of Saliſbury rated him, calling him; "[3]Knave's Son, "that he ſhould be ſo rude to call him, and theſe other Lords "Traytors; for they ſhould be found the King's true Liege "men, when he ſhould be found a Traytor, &c."

[2] Richard Widville, Lord Rivers married Jaquetta, Daughter of Peter of Luxemburg, Earl of St. Paul, and widow of John, Duke of Bedford, by whom he was Father to Elizabeth, the widow of Sir John Gray, and afterwards Queen of Edward IV. the now Earl of March, by whom he was created Earl Rivers, &c. He was beheaded in July, 1469, by the Lancaſtrian Mutineers, in Northamptonſhire.

[3] The word Knave appears, by this expreſſion, at this time to have been uſed in a bad ſenſe.

a t'yto^{r}, &c. And my Lord of Warr' reheted hym and ſeyd that his fader was but aſquyer and broute up w^{t} Kyng H'rry the v^{te} and ſethen hymſelf made by maryage and alſo made Lord and that it was not his p'te to have ſwyche langage of Lords beyng of the Kyngs blood, and my Lord of Marche reheted hym in lyke wyſe, and S^{r}. [4] Antony was reheted for his langage of all iij Lords in lyke wyſe.

It', the Kyng cometh to London ward and as it is ſeyd rereth the pepyll as he com' but it is c'tayn ther be comyſſyons made in to dyv's ſchyres that ev'y man be redy in his beſt aray to com whan the Kyng ſend for hem. It', my Lord Roos is com fro Gynes.

No more but we p'y to J'hu have you in his moſt m'cyfull kepyng Amen. Wretyn at London the munday next aft' ſeynt Powle day.

Yowr Brod,

[5] **Willyam Paſton.**

Paper Mark.
Cap and Fleur de Lys.
Pl. VIII. N° 4.

[4] Sir Anthony Widville, afterwards Lord Scales and Earl Rivers, was beheaded by the tyrannic order of Richard III. at Pontefract, on the 13th of June, 1483.

And my Lord of Warwick rated him, and ſaid "that his "Father was but a Squire, and brought up with King Henry V. "and ſince made himſelf by marriage, and alſo made a Lord; "and that it was not his part to have ſuch language of Lords, "being of the King's blood."

And my Lord of March rated him in like wiſe.

And Sir [4] Anthony was rated for his language of all the three Lords in like wiſe.

Item, the King cometh to London ward, and as it is ſaid rereth [*raiſeth*] the people as he come; but it is certain there be commiſſions made into diverſe Shires, that every man be ready, in his beſt array, to come, when the King ſend for him.

Item, my Lord Roos is come from Guiſnes.

No more, but we pray to Jeſu have you in his moſt merciful keeping. Amen.

Written at London the Monday next after St. Paul's Day.

Your Brother,

[5] WILLIAM PASTON.

London,
Monday, 29th of January,
1459, 38 H. VI.

[5] Autograph. Pl. 11. N° 21.

LETTER XLVIII.

To the worſchypful fadyr yn God and my ryth gode Lord the Byſshop of [1] Wyncheſtyr.

WORSCHYPFUL Fadyr yn God and my rythe gode Lord as hertely as y canne y recomaund me to your gode Lordſchyp to the wyche pleſe hyt to wyt that y have reſayvyd your lett[r] by the wyche y oundyrſtond the dayely ſute to your Lordſchyp as of Paſtun as for the mater betwyx hym and me wer yn alſo y fele that he ys wyllyd that comyny-caſyon and trete ſchold be had betwyxt hys counſayle and myne now at Mydſomer to the wyche my Lord y am at the reverens of your Lordſchyp wel agreyd, and have ſend to my counſayle at Loundon aftyr the ſeyng of thys your laſt lett[r] as for the trete by twyxt hym and me, and that they ſchold yeve ful attendauns to the end of the mater by twne the ſayde Paſtū and me as thow y were preſent w[t] hem.

And my Lord hyt were to grete a thyng and hyte laye yn my power but y wold do at the reverens of your Lordſchyp yn las than hyt ſchold hurt me to gretly wyche y wote wel your Lordſchyp wol nevyr deſyr and God for hys mercy have you rythe worſchypful fadyr yn God, and my rythe gode Lord

We have here a familiar Letter from Lord Molyns, to the Biſhop of Wincheſter written entirely with his own hand.

The Seal is remarkably fair, having the Impreſſion of a Griffin, with wings diſplayed, placed on an Helmet, and ſurrounded by a braid of Straw. Pl. XIV. N° 14.

yn

LETTER XLVIII.

To the Worſhipful Father in God, and my right good Lord, the Biſhop of [1] *Wincheſter.*

WORSHIPFUL Father in God, and my right good Lord, as heartily as I can I recommend me to your good Lordſhip, to the which pleaſe it to weet, that I have received your Letter; by the which I underſtand the daily ſuit to your Lordſhip as of Paſton, as for the matter betwixt him and me, wherein alſo I feel, that he is willed that communication and treaty ſhould be had, betwixt his counſel and mine now at Midſummer; to the which, my Lord, I am at the reverence of your Lordſhip well agreed, and have ſent to my Counſel at London, after the ſeeing of this your laſt Letter as for the Treaty betwixt him and me, and that they ſhould give full attendance to the end of the matter between the ſaid Paſton and me, as though I were preſent with them.

And my Lord it were too great a thing, and it lay in my power, but I would do at the reverence of your Lordſhip, unleſs that it ſhould hurt me too greatly; which I wote [*know*] well your Lordſhip would never deſire.

And God for his mercy have you, right worſhipful Father in God, and my right good Lord, in his bleſſed keeping.

[1] William de Waynfleet or Patten, Provoſt of Eton, was appointed Biſhop of Wincheſter, in 1447, and continued Biſhop of that See till 1486, having juſt lived to ſee the Line of Lancaſter reaſcend the throne, to which he had always been a faithful ſubject.

yn hys bleſſyd kepyng. Wrytyn w^t my noune chaunſery hand yn haſt the xiij daye of June at teffaūt.

Vere hartely,

Your

[2] Molyns.

8 ½ by 11.

[2] Robert Hungerford, Lord Molyns, attached himſelf to the Houſe of Lancaſter, and was beheaded in the beginning of the reign of Edward IV. and though this Letter has no date,

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LETTER XLIX.

To my truſty and wel belovyd the Vycary and Tenaunts of my Lordſchepe of Greſsham.

TRUSTY and welbeloved Frendys I grete yowe well, and putte yowe all owte of doute for all y^t ye have doon for me, and the money that ye pay to my welbeloved ſ^rvñt John Partrich I will be your warant as for your diſcharge and ſave yowe harmeles ayenſt all thoo y^t wold greve yōwe, to my power.

And as hertly as I can I thanke yowe of the gud wyl ye have had and have toward me, and as to the tytyll of rigth y^t

This Letter is ſubſcribed by Robert Hungerford, Lord Molyns, and contains nothing worthy of its being preſerved, excluſive of its being the private Letter of a Nobleman of ſo remote a period.

The

Written with mine own chancery hand in haſte, the 13th day of June, at Teffaunt.

Very heartily,

Your

[2] MOLYNS.

Tafunt, in Wiltſhire,
13th of June.
Between 1457, and 1460,
35 and 39 H. VI.

date, I ſhould ſuppoſe it might be written between 1457 and 1460, when the Biſhop of Wincheſter was Lord Chancellor, eſpecially as lord Molyns pays ſo much attention to the Biſhop's recommendation. Pl. 11. N° 13.

LETTER XLIX.

To my truſty and well beloved, the Vicary and Tenants of my Lordſhip of Greſham.

TRUSTY and well beloved Friends, I greet you well, and put you all out of doubt for all that ye have done for me; and the money that ye pay to my well beloved Servant John Partrich I will be your warrant as for your diſcharge, and ſave you harmleſs againſt all thoſe that would grieve you to my power.

And as heartily as I can, I thank you of the good will ye have had, and have towards me; and as to the title of right that

The Subſcription however is particular, as he uſes the Initial Letters of both his Chriſtian Name and Family Title, and then writes Lord Molyns.

y^t^ I have to the Lordſhip of Greſſam ſchal with in ſhort tyme be knoweyn, and be the lawe ſo determynyd that ye ſchall all be glad y^t^ hath ought me youre gud wyll y^r^in.

And All myghty God kepe yowe and be his g'ce I ſchall be w^t^ yowe ſon aftyr the Parlement es endyd.

Wrytten atte London on Oure Lady evyn laſt paſt.

T. N.

Lord Molyns.

11 ¾ by 5 ⅛.

Paper Mark,
A Bunch of Grapes.
Pl. ix. N° 14.

Robert Hungerford, was Lord Hungerford by deſcent, and was ſummoned to Parliament in 1435, as Lord Molyns, in right of his wife Eleanor, Daughter and Heir of William, Lord Molyns. Pl. 11. N° 13.

There

LETTER L.

To my right worſhipfull and right entierly welbelovid Couſin the Viſcount Beaumont.

RIGHT worſhipfull and right entierly welbelovid Couſin. I comaunde me to you w^t^ alle my herte, deſiring to here and verile to knowe of your worſhipfull eſtate p'fite hele and good p'ſp'ite, the whiche I beſeche our Lord J'hu eu^r^ to mayntene and p'ſerve in alle worſhip to his pleſaunce and to your herts eaſe.

Pleaſe

This Letter written from Framlingham Caſtle, in Suffolk, the ancient Seat of the Mowbrays, Dukes of Norfolk, muſt have been written before 1460, when Viſcount Beaumont was ſlain.

It

that I have to the Lordſhip of Greſham *(it)* ſhall within ſhort time be known, and by the law ſo determined, that ye ſhall all be glad that hath ought me your good will therein.

And Almighty God keep you, and by his grace I ſhall be with you ſoon after the Parliament is ended.

Written at London, on Our Lady even laſt paſt.

ROBERT HUNGERFORD,
Lord MOLYNS.

21ſt of March.
Before 1460, 39 H. VI.

There is nothing which aſcertains the date of this Letter, farther than that Thomas, Lord Hungerford, ſucceeded his brother Robert, and was beheaded in the reign of Edward IV. for being in arms in favour of Henry VI. it is probable therefore that this was written before 1460.

LETTER L.

To my right worſhipful, and right entirely well beloved Couſin, The Viſcount Beaumont.

RIGHT worſhipful, and right entirely well beloved Couſin, I commend me to you with all my heart, deſiring to hear, and verily to know of your worſhipful eſtate, profit, health, and good proſperity; the which I beſeech our Lord Jeſu ever to maintain and preſerve in all worſhip, to his pleaſance and to your heart's eaſe.

It is all of the ſame hand writing, and that moſt probably of the Ducheſs's Secretary, the form of the Letters not being like thoſe of a female hand.

The matter recorded, ſhews the princely eſtabliſhment of the Houſeholds of the Nobility in that age; and that they imitated the royal appointments, by having the Officers on their own eſtabliſhments under their Letters Patent.

Pleaſe it you Couſin to witte, yat your welbelovid ſ^r^vaunt Roger Hunt and a ſ^r^vaunt of my mooſt dred Lord my huſbond on William, [1] Yoman of his Ewry, have comend to gedre, and been fully thorgh and agreed yat y^e^ ſaid William ſhall have his [2] office if it may pleaſe your good Lordſhip.

Wherfore Couſin I p'y you as my ſpeciall truſte is in you, yat y^e^ will at thinſtaunce of my proier and writing, graunte by your L'res patents to y^e^ ſaid William the forſaid office with ſuche wages and fees as Roger your ſaid ſ^r^vaunt hath it of you, truſtyng verile yat ye ſhall fynde the ſaid William a faithfull ſ^r^vaunt to you, and can and may do you right good ſ^r^vice in yat office.

And Couſin in thacompleſhment of my deſire in yis mater ye may do me a right good pleaſer as God knowith, whom I beſeche for his m^r^ci to have you ev^r^ in his bleſſed gouv^r^naunce and ſend you good lyfe and long with muche good worſhip.

Writen at Framlynh'm the viijth day of Marche.

[3] Elianore, the Ducheſs of Norfolk.

11 ¾ by 7.

Paper Mark,
A Pyramid.
Pl. IX. N° 15.

[1] An Officer who had the Charge of the Table Linen, &c.

[2] It ſeems by this repreſentation of the matter, as if Roger Hunt, the officer of the Viſcount Beaumont, had ſold his Office under his Lordſhip to William, Yeoman of the Ewry to the Duke, if, through the Ducheſs's recommendation, Lord Beaumont ſhould think proper to accept him.

LET-

Pleaſe it you, Couſin, to weet, that your well beloved Servant Roger Hunt, and a ſervant of my moſt dread Lord my Huſband, one William, [1] Yeoman of his Ewry, have communed together, and been fully through and agreed, that the ſaid William ſhall have his [2] office, if it may pleaſe your good Lordſhip.

Wherefore Couſin, I pray you, as my ſpecial truſt is in you, that ye will, at the inſtance of my prayer and writing, grant by your Letters Patents, to the ſaid William, the foreſaid office, with ſuch wages and fees as Roger your ſaid ſervant hath it of you; truſting verily that ye ſhall find the ſaid William a faithful ſervant to you, and can and may do you right good ſervice in that office.

And, Couſin, in the accompliſhment of my deſire in this matter, ye may do me a right good pleaſure, as God knoweth, whom I beſeech for his mercy to have you ever in his bleſſed governance, and ſend you good life and long, with much worſhip.

Written at Framlingham, the 8th day of March.

[3] ELIANOR, the Ducheſs of NORFOLK.

Framlingham,
8th of March.
Before 1460, 39 H. VI.

3 Ellenor, Ducheſs of Norfolk, wife of John Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, was the Daughter of William Bourchier, Earl of Ewe, in Normandy, and Siſter of Henry Bourchier, Earl of Eſſex.

The Duke died in 1461, and was buried at Thetford, where his Ducheſs was likewiſe buried. Pl. 11. N° 16.

LET-

LETTER LJ.

To the right worſhipfull Sr. and Maiſtr John Paſton Eſcuier at Norwiche be this delyvrd in haſt.

RIGHT worſchipfull Sr. and Maiſter I recomaund me un to you Pleaſe you to wete the monday aftr oure [1] Lady day there come hider to my Maiſtr ys plaſe my Maiſter Bowſer Sr. Harry Ratford John Clay and the Harbyger of my Lord of Marche deſyryng that my Lady of [2] York myght lye her untylle the comyng of my Lord of York and hir tw Sonnys my Lorde [3] George and my Lorde [4] Richard, and my Lady [5] Margarete hir Dawztyr, whiche y graunt hem in youre name to ly here untylle Mychelmas.

And ſhe had not ley here ij dayes but ſche had tythyng of the londyng of my Lord at [6] Cheſtre, the teweſday next aftr my Lord ſent for hir that ſche ſhuld come to hym to Harford, and theder ſche is gone.

And ſythe y left here bothe the Sunys and the Dowztyr, and the Lord of Marche comyth eury day to ſe them.

After the Battle of Northampton, fought in July 1460, the Queen and Prince fled into Wales, and the Duke of Somerſet into France.

The King returned with the Yorkiſts to London, who informing the Duke of York, then in Ireland, of their ſucceſs, he embarked for England.

[1] The nativity of our Lady is on the 8th of September, the Monday after was this year on the 15th.

[2] Cicely, Daughter of Ralph Nevile, firſt Earl of Weſtmoreland, ſhe lived to ſee two of her Sons Kings of England, &c. and died in 1495, 10 H. VII.

Item

LETTER LI.

To the right worſhipful Sir and Maſter, John Paſton, Eſquire, at Norwich, be this Letter delivered in haſte.

RIGHT worſhipful Sir and Maſter, I recommend me unto you; pleaſe you to weet, the Monday after Our [1] Lady day there come hither, to my Maſter's place, my Maſter Bowſer, Sir Harry Ratford, John Clay, and the Harbinger of my Lord of March, deſiring that my Lady of [2] York, might lie here until the coming of my Lord of York, and her two Sons, my Lord [3] George, and my Lord [4] Richard, and my Lady [5] Margaret her Daughter, which I granted them in your name to lie here until Michaelmas.

And ſhe had not lain here two days but ſhe had tidings of the landing of my Lord at [6] Cheſter.

The Tueſday next after, my Lord ſent for her that ſhe ſhould come to him to Harford [*Hereford*], and thither ſhe is gone; and in the mean time are left here both the Sons, and the Daughter, and the Lord of March cometh every day to ſee them.

3 George, afterwards Duke of Clarence, he married Iſabel, eldeſt Daughter of Richard Nevile, the great Earl of Warwick, and was put to death in 1478, aged about 27 years; he was at this time therefore about nine years old.

4 Richard, afterwards Duke of Glouceſter, and King of England, by the name of Richard III.

5 Margaret, afterwards Ducheſs of Burgundy.

6 He returned in conſequence of the Victory gained at Northampton, over the King's army.

Item,

Item my Lord of York hath dyvers ſtraunge Com'iſſions fro the Kyng for to ſitte in dyv's townys com'yg homward, that is for to ſey in Ludlow Schrrofyſbury Herford Leycetre Coventre, and in other dyv's townys to punych them by the fawtes to the Kyngs Lawys.

As for tythyngs here the [7] Kyng is way at Eltham and at Grenewych to hunt and to ſport hym there bydyng the p'lement, and the Quene and the Prynce byth in Walys alway.

And is with hir the Duc of Exceſtre and othe' with a fewe mayne as men ſeythe here.

And the Duc of Som'ſet he is in [8] Depe withe hym Maiſt' John Ormound Wyttyngh'm Andrew [9] Trollyp and other dyv's of the Garyſon of [10] Gyanys under the Kyng of Fraunce ſaf-condyte, and they ſeythe here he porpoſe hym to go to Walys to the Quene. And the Erle of Wyltſchyre is ſtylle in pece at [11] Otryght at the ffrerys whiche is Seyntwary.

Item Colbyne ys come home to my Maiſt' is place and ſeyth that at you' departyng ouzt of London ze ſeid hym word that he ſchuld come hedder to the place and be here un tylle your comyng a zene, and ſo he is here it, and ſeith he wolle take no Maiſt' but be your avyce, nether the leeſe awaytythe uppon Maiſt' Oldhall the moſt parte at Redre at his place.

Item Maiſt' [12] Ponyngs hathe enteret on an two or iij placys

[7] The King was now entirely under the direction and management of the Earls of March, Warwick, and Saliſbury; and by them was kept at Eltham, under the idea of taking the Diverſions of Hunting, Sporting, &c. &c.

[8] Diepe, a Port Town in France, oppoſite to the Port of Rye, in England.

[9] He was killed in the battle of Towton.

Item, my Lord of York hath diverſe ſtrange Commiſſions from the King, for to ſit in diverſe towns coming homeward; that is for to ſay, in Ludlow, Shrewſbury, Hereford, Leiceſter, Coventry, and in other diverſe Towns, to puniſh them by the faults to the King's Laws.

As for tidings here, the [7] King is away at Eltham and at Greenwich to hunt, and to ſport him there biding [*during*] the Parliament, and the Queen and the Prince abideth in Wales always, and [*there*] is with her the Duke of Exeter, and others with a few meny [*followers,*] as men ſay here.

And the Duke of Somerſet he is in [8] Diepe, and with him Maſter John Ormond, Whittingham, Andrew [9] Trollop, and other diverſe of the Garriſon of [10] Guiſnes, under the King of France's ſafe conduct, and they ſay here, he purpoſe him to go to Wales to the Queen. And the Earl of Wiltſhire is ſtill in peace at [11] Otryght [*Ottery*] at the Fryers, which is Sanctuary.

Item, Colbine is come home to my Maſter's place, and ſaith, that at your departing out of London, ye ſent him word that he ſhould come hither to the place, and be here until your coming again, and ſo he is here yet, and ſaith he will take no Maſter but by your advice; nevertheleſs *(he)* awaiteth upon Maſter Oldhall the moſt part of the Redre at his place.

Item, Maſter [12] Ponyngs hath entered on a two or three places

[10] About this time the Duke of Somerſet had been ordered to reſign his Government of Guiſnes, to the Earl of Warwick.

[11] St. Mary Ottery, in Devonſhire.—James Butler, Earl of Wiltſhire, was beheaded in 1461.

[12] He married Elizabeth, ſiſter of John Paſton, and by this Letter appears to have entered upon ſome Eſtates of the Earl of Northumberland.

uppon the Erle of [13] Northomberlond, and he ſtondyth in good grace of the Kyng my Lord of Marche my Lord Warwyk and my Lord of Salyſbury moſt parte of the Contre abought his lyflod hold aythe withe hym, and my Maiſteras youʳ Siſter is not delyvʳd as yet God yef hir god delyvʳaunce.

No more to you at this tyme but and ze wolle comaund me any ſʳvice y may doo it is redy, and J'hu have you in his bleſſid kepyng, and I beſeche you this Letter may comaund me to my Maiſtʳas youʳ Moder and my Maiſtʳas youʳ wyfe and alle youʳ houſhold.

Wreten at London the xij day of Octobre.

Youʳ owne Sʳvaunt,

[14] Ꝟpſoer Hauſſon.

11 ½ by 10 ½.

13 Henry Piercy, Earl of Northumberland, jointly commanded with the Duke of Somerſet, at the battle of Towton, in 1461, where he was killed; he married Eleanor, Daughter and heir of Richard, Lord Poynings, &c.

LETTER LIJ.

To hys Rythe Worchypfwll broder John Paſton.

RYTHE rev'ent and worchypfwl brod' I recomawnde to yow cʳtyfyyng yow yᵗ yowr lettʳ was delyv'yd me yᵉ xxiii day of Januar abowthe none ſeaſſon and

Rychard

upon the Earl of [13] Northumberland, and he ſtandeth in good grace of the King, my Lord of March, my Lord Warwick, and my Lord of Saliſbury; moſt part of the Country about his lyflod [*livelihood*] holdeth with him; and my Miſtreſs your ſiſter is not delivered as yet, God give her good deliverance.

No more to you at this time, but and [*if*] ye will command me any ſervice I may do, it is ready, and Jeſu have you in his bleſſed keeping; and I beſeech you, this Letter may commend me to my Miſtreſs your Mother, and my Miſtreſs your wife, and all your houſehold.

Written at London, the 12th day of October.

Your own Servant,

[14] CHRISTOPHER HAUSSON.

London,
Sunday, 12th of October,
1460, 39 H. VI.

[14] Chriſtopher Hauſſon, or Hanſon, appears to have been a confidential Servant of John Paſton, Pl. 111. N° 37.

LETTER LII.

To his right Worſhipful Brother, John Paſton.

RIGHT reverend and worſhipful Brother, I recommend *(me)* to you, certifying you that your Letter was delivered me the 23d day of January about the noon ſeaſon, and

[1] Rychard Calle rode in y^e^ mornyng and yerfor I brak yowr lett^r^ if yer wer any aftr mat and I dede Xpitofer Hauſwan goo to my [2] lord of Cawnt'bur' to tell him as yowr lett' reherſyd and my lord ſeyd he hadde ſpokyn w^t^ yowr man yer of y^e^ day be for' and if [3] y^e^ byſhop of Norwyche wod not doo ſo mwche for him he hys y^e^ les behold to him notw^t^ſtandyng he ſayd he wold ſave yow harmles agens John Yowng but and ye do well remember Thys lord have many maters to thyng' on and if it be forgeten y^e^ harm is yowrs and alſo if the word torn John Yong will not doo at hys p'yer.

And my [4] lord fitzwater is ryden northewards and it is ſayd in my lord of Cawnt'berys howſe y^t^ he hethe takyn ij^c^ of [5] Andrew troloppys men and as for Colt and Sir Jamys ſtrangwyſſe and Sir Thomas pykeryng yey be takyn or ellys dede y^e^ comyn voyſſe is y^t^ yey be dede, hopton and haſtyngs be w^t^ y^e^ Erle of marche and wer not at y^e^ fewlde Wat word y^t^ ev' he have fro my lords y^t^ be here it is well doo and beſt for yow to ſee y^t^ y^e^ contre be allweys redy to com' bothe fote men and hors men qwen they be ſent for for I have herd ſeyde y^e^ ferther' lords will be her' ſoner y^t^ men wen I have arde ſayde er iij weks to an ende and alſo y^t^ ye xwld come w^t^ more men and clenlier

Clement Paſton, (Pl. 11. N° 22.) appears to have written this letter to his Brother, to induce him to ſhow himſelf zealous for the York Party, who had now poſſeſſion of London and the King; and to induce him to do it with the greater readineſs, informs him that the Lancaſtrian Army, led on by the Queen, had leave to pillage the South, and take away any man's property; this is a true, though terrible picture of a kingdom harraſſed by civil commotions!

[1] Richard Calle married Elizabeth, ſiſter of J. Paſton.

[2] Thomas Bourchier, Archbiſhop of Canterbury, and Lord Chancellor, died in 1486.

arayed

[1]Richard Calle rode in the morning, and therefore I broke your Letter, if [*left*] there were any after matter; and I did [*ordered*] Chriſtopher Hauſwon *(to)* go to my [2]Lord of Canterbury to tell him, as your letter rehearſed; and my Lord ſaid, he had ſpoken with your man thereof the day before, and if the [3]Biſhop of Norwich would not do ſo much for him, he is the leſs beholden to him; notwithſtanding, he ſaid, he would ſave you harmleſs againſt John Young; but and ye do well, remember, This Lord have many matters to think on, and if it be forgotten the harm is yours; alſo if the word turn John Yong will not do at his prayer.

And my [4]Lord Fitzwalter is ridden northwards, and it is ſaid, in my Lord of Canterbury's houſe, that he hath taken 200 of [5]Andrew Trollop's men. And as for Colt, and Sir James Strangwyſe, and Sir Thomas Pykering, they be taken or elſe dead: the common voice is, that they be dead.

Hopton and Haſtyngs be with the Earl of March and were not at the Field.

What word, that ever he have from my Lords that be here, it is well done, and beſt for you to ſee, that the Country be always ready to come both footmen and horſemen, when they be ſent for; for I have heard ſaid, the farther Lords will be here ſooner than men ween, I have heard ſaid, ere three weeks to an end; and alſo that ye ſhould come with more men, and

3 Walter Hart, Biſhop of Norwich.

4 This muſt have been ſome Action, after the Battle of Wakefield, in which the Queen's Party was beaten.

5 Andrew Trollop, was killed at the battle of Towton, on the 29th of March, 1461, fighting for the Houſe of Lancaſter.

cleanlier

arayed y^an anoder man of yowr cwntre xwld for it ly the mor' up on yowr worchyp and towcheythe yow mor' ner' yan odermen of yat cwntre and alſo ye be mor had in favor w^t my lords her'. In This cwntre ev'y man is well wyllyng to goo w^t my lords here and I hope god xall helpe hem for the pepill in the northe Robbe and ſtyll and ben [6] apoynt'yd to pill all thys cwntre and gyffe a way menys goods and lufflods in all y^e ſowthe cwntre and that wyll aſk a myſcheffe my lords y^t ben her' have as moche as yey may do to kep down all thys Cwntre more than iiij or v ſchers for yey wold be up on y^e men in northe for it ys for y^e welle of all y^e ſowthe I pray yow recomawnde me to my moder and y^t I prayed her of her blyſſyng I pray yow exſcwſe me to her y^t I wryte her no lett' for thys was y now a doo I dar' not p'y yow to recomawnde me to my ſwſt' yowr wyff and y^e maſenger I trow be ſo wyſſe he can not doyt ye mwſt pay him for hys labor for he taryd all n'yt in thys town for thys lett' wrytyn y^e xxiij day of Janwar' in haſte wan I was not well at heſſe God have in hys keping.

By Clement Paſton,

Yowr Brod'.

xxiij Jan.

[6] The Queen had informed her Northern Army, that they ſhould plunder the Country South of Trent.

LET-

cleanlier arrayed than any other man of your Country ſhould; for it lie the more upon your worſhip, and toucheth you more near than other men of your Country, and alſo ye be more had in favour with my Lords here. In this Country every man is well willing to go with my Lords here, and I hope God ſhall help them, for the People in the North rob, and ſteal, and be [6]appointed to pill [*pillage*] all this country, and give away mens Goods and Livelyhoods, in all the South Country, and that will aſk a miſchief. My Lords, that be here, have as much as they may do to keep down all this Country, more than four or five ſhires, for they would be up on the men in the North, for it is for the weal of all the South. I pray you recommend me to my Mother, and that I prayed her of her bleſſing; I pray you excuſe me to her, that I write her no letter, for this was enough to do. I dare not pray you to recommend me to my Sifter your wife, and the meſſenger I trow be ſo wiſe he can not do it. Ye muſt pay him for his labour, for he tarried all night in this town for this letter.

Written the 23d day of January in haſte, when I was not well at eaſe. God have *(you)* in his keeping.

By CLEMENT PASTON,

Your Brother.

23d January, 1460
39 H. VI.

Seal an Eſcallop Shell. Pl. XIV. N° 15.

LET-

LETTER LIII.

To my Reverend Mayſter Thom's [1] Danyell Squier for the [2] Kyngs body be thys L'r delyverd in haſt'.

MOST Reu'end Mayſter I recomaund me on to yowr graceus Mayſteſchup ever deſeryng to her of yowr wurſchupfull uſtate the whyche all myghte God mayntayne hyt and encrſe hyt on to hys pleſans, Pleſyng yow to know of my wellfare and of all yowr men at the makyng of thys l'r we wer in gode hele of body I bleſſyd be God.

Mo over Mayſter I ſend yow word by Ravly Pykeryng of all maters the whyche I be ſeche yow yeve hym credens as he wyll enforme yow of all, ſo ſur I beſeche yow in the reu'ens of God that ye wyll enforme owr Sou'ayn Lord the Kyng of all maters, that I ſend yow in thys lett' lyke as I have ſend a lett' to my Lord Chaunſeler and to all my Lordys by the ſayd Pykeryng the whyche lett' I be ſeche yow that ye take and delyver to my Lord and all my Lordys by yowr awne handys and lete the ſayd Pykeryng declare all thyngs as he hath ſayn and know[t].

Furſt

This Letter muſt have been written in the reign of Henry VI. but in what year I cannot ſay; it contains a curious hiſtorical Anecdote, greatly to the honour of the Commander of the Ships. Pl. III. N° 38.

[1] Thomas Daniel, Eſq. had a grant of the Conſtableſhip of Riſing Caſtle, in Norfolk, dated the 8th of September, 1486, 27 H. VI. he was afterwards made a Knight, and

LETTER LIII.

To my reverend Maſter, Thomas [1] Daniel, Eſquire for the [2] King's Body, be this Letter delivered in haſte.

MOST reverend Maſter, I recommend me unto your gracious Maſterſhip, ever deſiring to hear of your worſhipful eſtate; the which Almighty God maintain it, and increaſe it unto his pleaſance [*pleaſure.*]

Pleaſing you to know of my welfare, and of all your men, at the making of this Letter, we were in good health of body, bleſſed be God.

Moreover Maſter, I ſend you word by Ravly Pikering of all matters, the which I beſeech you give him credence, as he will inform you of all, ſo ſure I beſeech you in the reverence of God, that ye will inform our Sovereign Lord the King of all matters, that I ſend you in this Letter; like as I have ſent a Letter to my Lord Chancellor, and to all my Lords by the ſaid Pickering; the which Letter, I beſeech you that ye take and deliver to my Lord, and all my Lords by your own hands, and let the ſaid Pickering declare all things as he hath ſeen and known.

married Margaret, Daughter of Sir Robert, and Siſter of Sir John Howard, afterwards, Duke of Norfolk.

He was attainted in 1461, 1 E. IV. but reſtored in 1474, 14 E. IV.

[2] An Eſquire of the King's Body was an Officer of great truſt, lodged near, and during the night, all meſſages, &c. were delivered by him in perſon, to the King.

Furſt I ſend yow word that when we went to ſee we toke ij Schyppys of Braſt comyng owte of Flaundrys and then after ther ys made a grete armyng in Brytayn' to mete w^t^ me and my Felyſchyp that ys to ſay the grete Schyp of Braſt the grete Schyp of Morleys the grete ſchyp of Vanng w^t^ other viij Schyppis Bargys and Balyngers to the nu'ber of iij m^l^ men and ſo we lay in the ſee to me w^t^ them.

And then we mette w^t^ a flotte of a C grete Schyppys of [3] Pruſe Lubycke Campe Raſtocke Holond Selond and Flandres betwyte Garnyſe and Portland and then I cam abord the Admirall and bade them Stryke in the Kyngys name of Englond, and they bade me Skyte in the Kyngs name of Englond, and then I and my Feleſchyp ſayd but he wyle ſtreke don the ſayle that I wyld over ſayle ham by the Grace of God and God wyle ſend me wynd and wether and dey bade me do my wurſt by cauſe I had ſo fewe ſchyppys and ſo ſmale that they ſcornyd w^t^ me. And as God wuld on fryday laſt was we had a gode wynd and then we armyd to the nu'ber of ij m^l^ men in my Felyſchyp and made us redy for to over ſayle them and then they lonchyd a Bote and ſette up a Stōdert of Trueſſe and com and ſpake w^t^ me and ther they were yolded all the hundret Schyppys to go w^t^ me in what Port that me luſt and my Felawys but they faothe w^t^ me the day before and ſchotte atte us a j^ml^ Gonnys and Quarell owte of nu'ber and have ſlayn meny of my Felyſchyp and meymyd all ſoo.

Wherfor me thyngkyt that they have forfett bothe Schypps and Godys at owr Sou'ayn Lord the Kyngys wyll Beſechy'g yow

[3] Theſe were great Marts for Trade.

First I ſend you word that when we went to ſea, we took two Ships of Breſt coming out of Flanders; and then after, there is made a great arming in Britayne to meet with me and my Fellowſhip, that is to ſay, the great Ship of Breſt, the great Ship of Morlaix, the great Ship of Vannes, with other eight Ships, Barges, and Balingers to the number of 3000 men, and ſo we lay on the ſea to meet with them.

And then we met with a Flote [*Fleet*] of an hundred great Ships of [3] Pruſe, Lubeck, Campe, Roſtock, Holland, Zealand, and Flanders, betwixt Guernſey and Portland; and there I came aboard the Admiral, and bad them ſtrike in the King's name of England, and they bade me go ſkite [*ſhite*] in the King's name of England; and then I and my Fellowſhip ſaid, but [*unleſs*] he will ſtrike down the ſail, that I will overſail them by the grace of God, and God will ſend me wind and weather; and they bade me do my worſt, becauſe I had ſo few Ships and ſo ſmall, that they ſcorned me.

And as God would, on Friday laſt was, we had a good wind; and then we armed us to the number of 2000 men in my Fellowſhip, and made us ready for to overſail them; and then they launched a Boat, and ſet up a Standard of Truce, and came and ſpoke with me, and there they were yielded all the hundred Ships to go with me into what Port that me liſt and my Fellows; but they fought with me the day before, and ſhot at us a 1000 Guns, and Quarrels out of number, and have ſlain many of my Fellowſhip, and maimed alſo.

Wherefore methinketh that they have forfeited both Ships and Goods at our ſovereign Lord the King's Will.

yow that ye do yowr parte in thys mater for thys I have wrytyn to my Lord Chaunſeler and all my Lordys of the Kyngs Counſell and ſo I have brofte them all the C Shyppys w^{t} in Wyght in ſpyte of them all and ye myght gete leve of owr Sou'ayn Lord the Kyng to com hydder hyt ſchall turne yow to grete wurſchup and profett to helpe make owr a poyntement in the Kyngs name for ye ſawe never ſuche a ſyght of ſchyppys take in to Englond thys C wynter for we ly armyd nyght and day to kepe them in to the tyme that we have tydengs of owr Soverayn and hys Counſell ffor truly they have do harme to me and to my Feleſchyp and to yowr Schyppys more [4] ij m^{l} ^{li} worth harme and therfor I am aveſyd and all my Feleſchyp to [5] droune them and ſlee them w^{t} oute that we hafe tydyngs from owr ſou'ayn the Kyng and hys Counſell and therfor in the reu'ens of God come ye yowr ſelf and ye ſchall have a grete avayle and wurſchup of yowr comyng to ſee a ſuche ſyght for I der well ſey that I have her at y^{s} tyme all the cheff Schyppys of Duche lond Holond Selond and Flaundrys and now hyt wer tyme for to trete for a fynell peſe as ffor that partyes.

I writ no more to yow at y^{s} tyme but all myghty J'hs have yow in hys kepyng. I writ in haſt w^{t} in Wyght on Soneday at nyght after the Aſcencon of owr Lord.

By yowr owne ſ'vant,

Robt. Wenpngton.

11 ½ by 13 ¾.

Paper Mark,
A Pair of Scales.
Pl. IX. N° 16.

* I cannot tell whether this, in the Original Letter, is 2000 or 3000l.

Beſeeching you that ye do your part in this matter, for this I have written to my Lord Chancellor, and all my Lords of the King's Council; and ſo I have brought them, all the hundred Ships, within Wight [*the Iſle of Wight*] in ſpite of them all.

And ye might get leave of our ſovereign Lord the King to come hither, it ſhall turn you to great worſhip, and profit, to help make our appointment in the King's name, for ye ſaw never ſuch a ſight of Ships taken into England this hundred winters; for we lie armed night and day to keep them in, to the time that we have Tidings of our Sovereign, and his Council; for truly they have done harm to me, and to my Fellowſhip, and to your Ships, more than [4] 2000l. worth *(of)* harm.

And therefore I am adviſed, and all my Fellowſhip, to [5] drown them and ſlay them, without that we have tidings from our Sovereign the King, and his Council; and therefore in the reverence of God come ye yourſelf, and ye ſhall have a great avail, and worſhip for your coming to ſee a ſuch ſight, for I dare well ſay, that I have here at this time, all the chief Ships of Dutchland, Holland, Zealand, and Flanders, and now it were time for to treat for a final Peace, as for theſe Parts.

I write no more to you at this time, but Almighty Jeſu have you in his keeping.

I write in haſte within Wight, on Sunday at night after the Aſcenſion of our Lord.

By your own Servant,
ROBERT WENYNGTON.

Iſle of Wight
Sunday,
H. VI.

5 It ſeems contrary to all rules of war or humanity to drown or ſlay Priſoners of war, after they have ſurrendered.

ORIGINAL LETTERS.

EDWARD IV.

1460 - - - - - - 1483.

1 - - - - - - 23 E. IV.

ORIGINAL LETTERS.

LETTER J.

To my Maiſt' John Paſton In haſt.

PLEASE you to knowe and wete of ſuche tydyngs as my Lady of York hath by a l're of Credens und^{r} the ſigne manuel of oure fou'ayn Lord King Edward whiche l're cam un to oure ſayd Lady this ſame day [1] eſt'ne evyn at xj clok and was ſene and red be me Will'm Paſton ffyrſt oure ſou'ayn Lord hath wonne the feld and uppon the munday next aft' [2] Palmeſunday he was reſs' in to York w^{t} gret ſolempnyte and p'ceſſyons, and the mair and comons of the ſaid Cite mad ther menys to have g'ce be Lord [3] Montagu, and Lord [4] Barenars whiche be for the Kyngs coming in to the ſaid Cite deſyred hym of grace for y^{e} ſaid Cite whiche g'unted hem g'ce, on the

This Letter gives a very curious and authentic Account of the bloody Battle of Towton (a village about 10 miles S. W. from York,) fought on Palm Sunday, the 29th of March, 1461; within a Month after Edward's poſſeſſing himſelf of the Crown, and upon the fate of which, his future hopes of retaining it depended.

The Facts, here related, are thoſe ſent by the King himſelf, to his Mother Cecily, Ducheſs of York, Widow of Richard, Duke of York, Daughter to Ralph Neville, Earl of Weſtmoreland.

[1] Eaſtern Eve, was this year on the 4th of April.
[2] Palm Sunday fell on the 29th of March.

Kyngs

EDWARD IV.

LETTER I.

To my Maſter John Paſton in haſte.

PLEASE you to know and weet of ſuch tidings, as my Lady of York hath by a letter of Credence, under the ſign manual of our Sovereign Lord King Edward; which Letter came unto our ſaid Lady this ſame day [1] Eaſtern Even at xj o'clock, and was ſeen and read by me Will[m] Paſton.

Firſt, Our Sovereign Lord hath won the field; and upon the Monday next after [2] Palm Sunday, he was *received* into York with great Solemnity and Proceſſions. And the Mayor and Commons of the ſaid City made their means [*mediation*] to have grace by Lord [3] Montagu, and [4] Lord Barners, which before the King's coming into the ſaid City, deſired him of grace for the ſaid City, which granted them grace.

This Account therefore from the King did not arrive in London till ſix days after the battle.

[3] John Neville, Lord Montague, was, in 1464, created Earl of Northumberland, and, on his reſignation of that title, in 1470, Marquis of Montagu; he fell in the battle of Barnet, in 1471, fighting againſt King Edward.

[4] Sir John Bourchier, Lord Barners, in the battle of St. Alban's, in 1450, fought on the part of Henry VI. but after that time, he and his family eſpouſed the cauſe of the Yorkiſts: he died in 1474.

Kyngs parte is ſlayn Lord [5] Fitz water and Lord [6] Scrop ſore hurt John [7] Stafford Horne of Kent ben ded and Umfrey [7] Stafford Will'm [8] Haſtyngs mad Knyghts with oy[r] Blont is knygth, &c.

Un the c't'ry part is ded Lord [9] Clyfford Lord [10] Nevyle Lord [11] Welles Lord [12] Wyllouby Antony Lord [13] Scales Lord [14] Harry and be ſuppoſyng y[e] Erle of [15] Northumb'land Andrew Trollop w[t] many oy[r] gentyll and comons to y[e] nomb' of xx[ml].

It'. Kyng Harry the Qwen the Prince [16] Duke of Som's' Duke of [17] Exet' Lord [18] Roos be fledde in to Scotteland and they be chaſed and folwed, &c. We ſend no er un to you be cauſe we had non c'tynges tyl now for un to y[s] day London was as ſory Cite as myght and becauſe Spord'uns had no c'teyn tydyngs we thought ye ſchuld take them a worthe tyl more c'tayn. It' Thorp Waterfeld is yeldyn as Spord'uns can telle

[5] It does not appear from our Baronages that there was at this time a Lord Fitzwalter; our Hiſtorians however mention ſuch a Nobleman, as commanding at Ferry-Bridge for Edward IV. where he was defeated and killed a few days before this battle; and this Letter confirms the exiſtence of ſuch a Title.

[6] John, Lord Scroop, of Bolton, died in 1494.

[7] John Stafford, and Humphrey Stafford, were both of the family of the Duke of Buckingham.

[8] William Haſtyngs, was ſoon after created Lord Haſtings, and in 1483, beheaded, by the command of Richard III.

[9] John, Lord Clifford, killed at Ferry-Bridge, the day before the battle of Towton, was the man who baſely ſtabbed Edmund, Earl of Rutland, immediately after the battle of Wakefield, in December, 1460.

[10] John, Lord Neville.

[11] Lionel, Lord Welles.

you,

On the King's part is ſlain Lord [5] Fitzwalter, and Lord [6] Scroop ſore hurt; [7] John Stafford, Horne of Kent be dead, and [7] Humphrey Stafford *(and)* [8] William Haſtyngs made Knights with others; Blont is knighted, &c.

On the *contrary* part is dead Lord [9] Clifford, Lord [10] Nevyle, Lord [11] Welles, Lord [12] Wylloughby, Anthony Lord [13] Scales, Lord [14] Harry, and by *ſuppoſition* the Earl of [15] Northumberland, Andrew Trollop with many others, gentle and commons, to the number of twenty thouſand.

Item, King Harry, the Queen, the Prince, Duke of [16] Somerſet, Duke of [17] Exeter, Lord [18] Roos be fled into Scotland, and they be chaſed and followed, &c. We ſend no er [*no ſooner*] unto you becauſe we had none certain till now; for unto this day London was as ſorry City as might; and becauſe Spordams had no certain tidings, we thought ye ſhould take them *a worth* [*as you would*] till more certain.

Item, Thorp Waterfield is *yeilded* as Spordams can tell you.

[12] Richard Welles, a ſon of Lord Welles, in 1455, was ſummoned as Lord Willoughby, in right of his wife, Joanna, Heir of that great Warrior Robert, Lord Willoughby.

[13] Anthony Widville, Lord Scales, was not killed in this battle, but became afterwards Earl Rivers, and died in 1491. This Nobleman and Lord Montagu muſt have been created Lords immediately on the acceſſion of Edward IV.

[14] Lord Harry, Query, Stafford.

[15] Henry Percy, Earl of Northumberland, jointly commanded with the Duke of Somerſet, and was then ſlain, being about the age of 36 years.

[16] Henry Beaufort, Duke of Somerſet, was taken Priſoner at the battle of Hexham, in 1464, and beheaded by order of Edward IV.

[17] Henry Holland, Duke of Exeter, took Sanctuary at Weſtminſter, after the battle of Barnet, in 1471; went thence privately abroad, where he lived in great poverty.

[18] Thomas, Lord Roos.

you, and J'hu ſpede you we p'y you that this tydyngs my Moder may knowe.

Be your Brod',

W. Paſton,

T. Playters.

11 ½ by 4 ½.

Paper Mark,
Bull's Head and Star.
Pl. x. N° 1.

On a piece of Paper pinned to the above Letter, is a Liſt of the Names of the Noblemen and Knights, and the Number of Soldiers ſlain at the above Battle of Towton, as follow:

Comes Northumbr
Comes [19] Devon'
Dn's de Beamūde
Dn's de Clifford
Dn's de Nevyll
Dn's de [20] Dacre
Dn's Henricus de Bokyngham
Dn's de Well
Dn's de Scales Antony Revers
Dn's de Wellugby
Dn's de Malley Radūs Bigot Miles.

Millites.
Sir Rauff Gray
Sir Ric. Jeney
Sir Harry Bekingham
Sir Andrew Trollop.

w^t. xxviij [21] m Nomberd by Haralds.

5 ½ by 4 ½.

LET-

[19] Thomas Courtney, Earl of Devonſhire, was taken and beheaded.

[20] Sir Richard Fynes, was at this time Lord Dacre, but he was not killed in this battle.

[21] This Number is leſs than that given by our Hiſtorians.

Autograph. Pl. 11. N° 21. Pl. v. N° 14.

The Seal has the Impreſſion of a Fleur de Lys within a Creſcent, with a Motto above it. Pl. xiv. N° 16.

It having been a doubt amongſt ſeveral of our Hiſtorians, in what year King Edward IV. began his reign, the following Extract, from an Original Manuſcript, (in my poſſeſſion,) containing "The various Expences of Sir John Howard, Knight, on his

And Jeſu ſpeed you; we pray you that this tidings my Mother may know.

By your Brother,

W. PASTON.

TH. PLAYTERS.

London, Saturday,
Eaſter Eve,
4th April, 1461,
1 E. IV.

A Liſt of the Noblemen, Knights, and Soldiers, ſlain in the above Battle of Towton.

Noblemen.	Knights.
Henry Percy, Earl of Northumberland	Sir Ralph Gray
Thomas Courtney, Earl of [19] Devonſhire	Sir Richard Jeney
William Beaumont, Viſcount Beaumont	Sir Harry Belingham
John Clifford, Lord Clifford	Sir Andrew Trollop
John Neville, Lord Neville	with twenty-eight [21] thouſand, numbered by the Heralds.
[20] Lord Dacre.	
Lord Henry Stafford, of Buckingham	
Lionel Welles, Lord Welles	
Anthony Rivers, Lord Scales	
Richard Welles, Lord Willoughby	
Sir Ralph Bigot, Knight, Lord de Malley	

" own account, and on that of his Lord, John Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, from 146[illegible]
" to 1469;" will indiſputably aſcertain it.

" Anno R. R. E. q'rti q'rto."

" It[m], y[e] fferſte day off Apryll my Maſt' offyrd at y[e] croſſe on Eſt[r] day, xx[d]."

By the Tables, to find Eaſter for ever, it appears that in 1464, (the Golden Number being 2, and the Dominical Letters A G), Eaſter Sunday was on the 1ſt day of April.

Edward IV. began his reign on the 4th of March.

The 1ſt of April, 1464, was therefore the fourth of Edward IV. and conſequently he began his reign on the 4th of March, 1460, or, as we ſhould ſay now, 1460-1.

N. B. The Date of the New year commenced annually on the 25th day of March.

LET-

LETTER JJ.

To my Maiſter John Paſton eſquyer.

PLEASE yo[r] Maiſterchep to wete that I have ſpokyn w[t] Eſſex in the matt' that ye wete of and fynd him be his talkyng wel dyſpoſed not withſtandyng he woll not falle to no concluſyon to engroſe up the mat' tyll y[e] chef baron be com to London and that he be mad p'vy to y[e] mat' which we loke after this ſame ſecund ſaterday after Eſterne, and as for Notyngham he is not yet comyn' to London.

It' as for tydyng it is noyſed and told for trouth of men of worchip and oy[r] that y[e] Erle of Wylchyr is taken Doct[r] Morton and Docto[r] Makerell and be brougth to y[e] kyng at York Maiſt' [1] Will'm alſo ſpak w[t] a man that ſey hem. It' S[r]. I herd of S[r]. John [2] Borceter and Xpofer Hanſon that Herry the ſext is in a place in York ſchire is calle Coroumbr ſuche a name it hath or muche lyke and there is [3] ſege leyde abowte and dyv's ſquyers of the Erle of Northumbrlands and gadered them to geder a v or vj m[l] men to byger w[t] the ſege that in the mene while Herry

From hence we learn ſome farther particulars relative to the battle of Towton, and of the Proceedings after it; particularly of the beſieging of a place where Henry VI. was, and from which he might have been eaſily ſtolen away.

This Account differs from that given by our Hiſtorians, who ſay that the King, &c. fled directly into Scotland.

the

LETTER II.

To my Maſter, John Paſton, Eſquire.

PLEASE your Maſterſhip to weet, that I have ſpoken with Eſſex, in the matter that ye weet of, and find him by his talking well diſpoſed; notwithſtanding he will not fall to no concluſion to engroſs up the matter, till the Chief Baron be come to London, and that he be made privy to the matter; which we look after this ſame ſecond Saturday after Eaſter.

And as for Nottingham he is not yet coming to London.

Item, as for tidings, it is noiſed and told for truth of men of worſhip, and others, that the Earl of Wiltſhire is taken, Doctor Morton, and Doctor Makerell, and be brought to the King at York. Maſt[r]. [1] William alſo ſpoke with a man that ſaw them. Item, Sir I hear of Sir John [2] Borceter and Chriſtopher Hanſon that Harry the Sixth is in a place in Yorkſhire *(which)* is called Coroumber, ſuch a name it hath, or much like.

And there is [3] Siege laid about, and divers Eſquires of the Earl of Northumberland and [*have*] gathered them together a five or ſix thouſand men, to byger [*fight*] with the ſiege, that

[1] William Paſton I believe is here meant.

[2] Sir John Bourchier, Query.

[3] Our Hiſtorians make no mention of this Siege, nor of the eaſe with which Henry might have been taken.

the ſexte mygh' have ben' ſtole a way at a lytyll poſterne on the bak ſyde at whiche byker ben ſlayn iij m[l] men of y[e] north S[t]. Robt of Ocle and Conyrs leyth the Sege on our ſyde and thei it is y[t] have do this acte. S[u]m ſey the Qwen Som's' and y[e] P'nce ſchuld be there. It' it is talked now for trouthe y[e] Erle of [4] Northumb'land is ded. It' y[e] Erle of Devenſhire is ded juſtely It' my Lord [5] Ch'unceler is to York. It' the King and y[e] Lords com not here before [6] Whitſontyde, as it is ſayde. It'. S[r]. ſone uppon the chef Baron comyng I ſchall ſend you a lett' w[t] godds g'ce who p'ſerve you and have you in his blyſſed Kepyng.

Your,

[7] Thomas Playters.

11 ½ by 3 ½.

At Cokermouthe was the Erle of Wylchire taken and theſe oy[r] Doctor'. It' ſom men talke Lord Wellys Lord Wyllouby and Skales ben on lyve. It' S[r]. Robt Veer is ſlayn in Cornewayll as it is tok for trouthe.

[4] By this Account it appears that the Earl of Northumberland was not ſlain in the battle, but died of his wounds ſome days after.

[5] George Neville, Biſhop of Exeter, and Lord Chancellor.

[6] Whitſunday, 20th of May.

LET-

in the mean while Harry the Sixth might have been ſtolen away at a little Poſtern on the back ſide; at which Byker [*Fight*] be ſlain four thouſand men of the North. Sir Robert of Ocle [*query, if Ogle*] and Conyers lyeth the ſiege on our ſide, and they it is that have done this act. Some ſay the Queen, Somerſet, and the Prince ſhould be there. Item, it is talked now for truth, the Earl of [4]Northumberland is dead. Item, the Earl of Devonſhire is dead juſtly. Item, my Lord [5]Chancellor is to York. Item, the King and the Lords come not here before [6]Whitſuntide, as it is ſaid.

Item, Sir, ſoon upon the Chief Baron's coming I ſhall ſend you a Letter with God's Grace, who preſerve you, and have you in his bleſſed keeping.

Your,

[7] THOMAS PLAYTERS.

At Cockermouth was the Earl of Wiltſhire taken, and theſe other Doctors. Item, ſome men talk Lord Welles, Lord Wylloughby, and Scales be on live [*alive.*]

Item, Sir Robert Veer is ſlain in Cornwall, as it is took for truth.

London,
Saturday, 18th of April,
1461, 1 E. IV.

7 Thomas Playters was of a good family in the Counties of Norfolk and Suffolk, and at this time ſeems to have been an attendant about the Court. In 1623, the Family was honoured with the title of Baronet. Pl. v. N° 14. Pl. xiv. N° 17.

LETTER JJJ.

I Recomand me to yow and lete yow wete y^{t} notwythſtandyng tydinggs come down as ye know y^{t} pepill ſhuld not come up tyll thei were ſent fore but to be redy at all tymes this notwithſtandyng moſt pepill owt of this cuntre have take wags, ſeying thei woll goo up to London but thei have no Capteyn ner Rewler aſſigned be the Commiſſioners to awayte upon and ſo thei ſtragyll abowte be them ſelf and be lyklynes are not leke to come at London half of them and men that come from London ſey there have not paſſid Thetford not paſſyng CCCC and yet the Townes and the Cuntere that have waged hem ſhall thynk thei be diſcharged and therfore if this Lords above wayte aftyr more pepill in this Cuntre be lyklynes it woll not be eaſy to get w^{t} owt a newe comiſſion and warnyng and yet it woll be thought ryght ſtraunge of hem that have waged pepill to wage any more for eu'y towne hath waged and ſent firth and are redy to ſend forth as many as thei ded whan the Kyng ſent for hem be fore the feld at Lodlowe and thei that are not go be goyng in the ſame forme.

Itm

This Letter, without either Date, Name or Direction, we may diſcover, from the Contents, was written by one of John Paſton's Sons, ſoon after the Acceſſion of Edward IV. to the Throne; and gives a curious repreſentation of the ſtate of affairs in the County of Norfolk at this important period.

The reaſon for this ſecreſy of addreſs was, leſt ſome one of the Lancaſtrian Party ſhould

LETTER III.

I Recommend me to you, and let you weet, that notwithſtanding tidings come down as ye know, that people ſhould not come up till they were ſent for, but to be ready at all times; this notwithſtanding, moſt people out of this Country have taken wages, ſaying, they will go up to London; but they have no Captain nor Ruler aſſigned by the Commiſſioners to await upon, and ſo they ſtraggle about by themſelves, and, by likelineſs, are not like to come at London half of them; and men that come from London ſay, there have not paſſed Thetford not paſſing 400; and yet the Towns and the Country that have waged [*engaged*] them ſhall think they be diſcharged; and therefore if theſe Lords above wait after [*expect*] more people in this Country, by likelineſs it will not be eaſy to get without a new Commiſſion, and Warning, and yet it will be thought right ſtrange of them that have waged people, to wage any more, for every town hath waged, and ſent forth, and are ready to ſend forth, as many as they did, when the King ſent for them before the [1] field at Ludlow; and they that are not gone, be going in the ſame form.

get poſſeſſion of the letter, and ſo diſcover the ſentiments of the Paſtons reſpecting public affairs.

[1] Battle at Mortimer's Croſs near Ludlow, 2d of February, 1460, between Edward, then Duke of York, and the Lancaſtrians under Jaſper, Earl of Pembroke, who were route[illegible] Henry VI. was then in London, under the direction of the Earl of Warwick.

Itm ther was ſhrewd rewle toward in this Cuntre for ther was a c'teyn p'ſon forth wyth aft' the [2] Jurney at Wakefeld gadered felaſhip to have modered John Damme as is ſeyd and alſo ther is at the Caſtell of [3] Ryſing and in other ij plaſes made gret gaderyng of pepill and hyryng of harneys and it is wele undyrſtand they be not to the Kyng ward but rather the cont'ry and for to robbe. Wherfore my [4] fadyr is in a dowte whedir he ſhall ſend my broyer up or not for he wold have his owne men abowte hym if nede were here but notwythſtanding he wyll ſend up Dawbeney his ſpere and bowes w^t^ hym as [5] Stapilton and Calthorp or other men of worſhip of this Cuntre agree to doo wherfore demene yow in doyng of yowr erandes ther aftyr and if ye ſhall bryng any maſage from the Lords take writyng for Darcorts maſſage is not verely beleved be cauſe he browt no wrytyng.

Itm this Cuntre wold fayne take theſe [6] fals Shrewes that are of an oppynion cont'ry to the Kyng and his counſell if they had any auctorite from the Kyng to do ſo.

Itm my brother is redy to Yarmowth for to lette brybe's that wold a robbed a Ship undyr color of my Lord of Warwyk and longe nothyng to hem ward.

12 by 8 ½.

[2] Battle of Wakeſield, wherein Richard, Duke of York was killed, fought 31ſt of December, 1460.

[3] In Norfolk, it is now a fair and venerable ruin.

[4] John Paſton, Eſq. he died in 1466.

Item, there was ſhrewd [*bad*] rule toward in this Country, for there was a certain perſon forthwith after the [2] Journey at Wakefield gathered Fellowſhip to have murdered John Damme, as is ſaid.

And alſo there is at the Caſtle of [3] Riſing, and in other two places made great gathering of People, and hiring of Harneſs, and it is well underſtood, they be not to the King ward, but rather the contrary, and for to rob.

Wherefore my [4] Father is in a doubt, whether he ſhall ſend my Brother up or not, for he would have his own men about him, if need were here; but notwithſtanding, he will ſend up Dawbeney his Spear and Bows with him; as [5] Stapleton and Calthorp or other men of worſhip of this Country agree to do; wherefore demean you in doing of your Errands thereafter; and if ye ſhall bring any meſſage from the Lords, take writing, for Darcot's meſſage is not verily believed, becauſe he brought no writing.

Item, this Country would fain take theſe [6] falſe Shrews, that are of an opinion contrary to the King, and his Council, if they had any authority from the King to do ſo.

Item, my Brother is rode to Yarmouth for to let Bribers [*hinder plunderers*] that would have robbed a Ship under colour of my Lord of Warwick, and belong nothing to them ward.

[7] JOHN PASTON.

1461, 1 E. IV.

[5] Sir Miles Stapleton, he died about 1466.
[6] Diſloyal men.
[7] Autograph. Pl. IV. N° II.

LETTER JU.

To my right good Maiſter John Paſton in all haſt.

AFTER my moſt ſp'al Recommendacōn Pleaſe yo^{r} Maiſterchip wete The Kyng be cauſe of the ſege a boute Carelylle chūnged his day of Coronacōn to be upon the ſunday nexſt after ſeynt John Baptyſte to thentent to ſpede hym northward in all haſt, and how be it blyſſed be God that he hath now good tydynggs that Lord Mountagu hath broken the ſege and ſlayn of Scotts vj m^{l} and ij knyghes, whereof Lord Clifford's brother is on', yet not wythſtandyng he wol be Crowned the ſayd Sunday. And John Jeney enformed me and as I have v'ely lerned Sethen ye ar inbylled to be made Knygth at this Coronacōn, wheder ye have underſtandyng before hand I wot not, but and it lyke you to take the worchip uppon you conſyderyng the comfortable tytynggs afore ſey^{d} and for the gladneſſe and pleſo^{r} of al yo^{r} welwyllers and to the pyne and dyſcomfort of all yo^{r} Ille wyllers, it were tyme yo^{r} gere neceſſarye on that by halfe were p'veyd fore, and alſo ye had nede higth you to London for as I conceyve the Knygthes ſchuld be made uppon the Saterday

By this Account it appears that Lord Montagu muſt have marched very ſoon after the battle of Towton to the Siege of Carliſle; but our Hiſtorians are ſilent on this ſubject.

J. Paſton does not appear to have been knighted at the Coronation, John Markham and William

LETTER IV.

To my right good Maſter, John Paſton, in all haſte.

AFTER my moſt ſpecial Recommendation, Pleaſe your Maſterſhip weet; the King, becauſe of the Siege of Carliſle, changed his day of Coronation to be upon the Sunday next after Saint John Baptiſt, to the intent to ſpeed him Northward in all haſte. And how be it, bleſſed be God, that he hath now good tidings, that Lord Montagu hath broken the Siege, and ſlain of Scots ſix thouſand, and two Knights, whereof Lord Clifford's brother is one; yet notwithſtanding he will be crowned the ſaid Sunday.

And John Jeney informed me, and as I have verily learned ſithen [*ſince*] ye are inbilled to be made a Knight at this Coronation; whether ye have underſtanding before hand, I wot not; but and it like you to take the worſhip upon you, conſidering the comfortable tidings aforeſaid; and for the gladneſs and pleaſure of all your Welwillers; and to the pine and diſcomfort of all your Ill willers; it were time your geer neceſſary on that behalf were purveyed for; and alſo ye had need hight you [*come*] to London, for as I conceive the Knights ſhould be

William Yelverton, were called to the degree of Serjeants, in 1440, and in 1444 both made Judges, the former ſucceeded as Chief Juſtice of the King's Bench, in 1462.

Below the Direction of this Letter, and in a more modern hand is written, "J. Paſton, w^th^ others imbilled to be made knights at the Coronation of E. y^e^ iiij^th^."

Autograph. Pl. v. N° 14.

made

day by for y^{e} Coronacōn, and as moche as may be p'veyed for you in ſecrete wyſe wythouten coſt I ſchall by ſpeke for you if nede be, ayens yo^{r} comyng in truſt of the beſt, nev'theleſſe if ye be dyſpoſed ye had nede ſend a man by fore in all haſt that no thing be to ſeke. Will'm Calthorp is inbylled, and Yelu'tōn is inbylled, whiche cauſed Markh'm be cauſe Yelu'ton loked to have ben Chef Juge and Markh'm thynketh to pleſe hym thus. And as for the mat' a yens Pontrell we can no farther p'cede tyl we have my maiſt' yo^{r} faders teſtamē^{r}, I ſent my maiſtres a lett' for it, no more but I p'y al myghty Jh'u have you in his kepyng.

Y^{r}.

11 ½ by 4 ¾.

Thom's Playter.

Autograph. Pl. v. N° 14.

LETTER U.

To my right Worſhipfull Maiſt' John Paſton at Heyleſdon in Norff" in haſt.

AFT' due recomendacōn hadde Pleaſe it your Maiſt'ſhip to witte y^{t} as for Plait' he ſhall excuſe y^{e} writte of the p'lement, &c. as touchyng my Maiſt' Howard I cannot yet ſpeke w^{t} hym ne w^{t} Moungom'ye nether but as for y^{e} day of Coronacōn of y^{e} Kyng it ſhall be certeynly the moneday next

aft'

made upon the Saturday before the Coronation. And as much as may be purveyed for you in ſecret wiſe without coſt; I ſhall beſpeak for you, if need be, againſt your coming, in truſt of the beſt; nevertheleſs if ye be diſpoſed, ye had need ſend a man before in all haſte, that nothing be to ſeek. William Calthorp is inbilled, and Yelverton is inbilled, which cauſed Markham; becauſe Yelverton looked to have been Chief Judge, and Markham thinketh to pleaſe him thus. And as for the matter againſt Pontrell, we can no farther proceed, till we have my Maſter your Father's Teſtament; I ſent my Miſtreſs a Letter for it. No more, but I pray Almighty Jeſu have you in his keeping.

Your,

THOMAS PLAYTER.

London,
May or June, 1461.
1 E. IV.

LETTER V.

To my right worſhipful Maſter, John Paſton, at Heyleſdon, in Norfolk, in haſte.

AFTER due recommendation had; Pleaſe it your Maſterſhip to weet, that as for Playters he ſhall excuſe the writ of the Parliament, &c. As touching my Maſter Howard, I cannot yet ſpeak with him *nor* with Montgomery neither; but as for the day of the Coronation of the King, it ſhall be certainly,

aft' Mydſom' and it is told me y^{t} ye among oy^{r} ar named to be made Knyght atte Coronacōn, &c.

Itm it is ſeid y^{t} y^{e} Coronacōn do the Kyng wole in to y^{e} north part forthwith and y^{r}for ſhall not y^{e} p'lement holde but writtes ſhall goo in to ev'y ſhire to gyve them y^{t} ar choſyn Knyghtes of y^{e} ſhire day aft' Michelmeſſe this is told me by ſuyche as arn right credible. Maiſt' Brakle ſhall p'che at Poules on ſunday next comyng as he tolde me and he tolde me that for cauſe childermeſſe day fal on y^{e} ſunday the Coronacōn ſhal on y^{e} moneday, &c. Wretyn in haſt at London the ſunday next tofore mydſom'.

Yo^{r}. right pou'e ſ'uant,

James Greſh'm.

11 ½ by 4 ⅝.

On the back of this Letter, in a hand more modern than the Original, is written.

" John Paſton, named to be made Knight at the Coronation of King E. " the iiijth."

LET-

The manners of the times being what I wiſh to point out, this Letter affords a remarkable inſtance of the ſuperſtition of that age.

Holy Innocents, or Childermas day, is the 28th of December, a day reputed ſo unlucky, that during the year, many People even now*, will not begin any new piece of work, on that day of the week on which that happens.

In the year 1460, this *unfortunate* day fell on a Sunday; at that time therefore they muſt reckon forwards in the next year for the weekly Childermas day, according as it happened in the December of the year preceding; as the 28th of June, in no year, could be on the ſame day of the week as the 28th of December in the ſame year; if this was not

* This is obſerved likewiſe in the Spectator.

the Monday next after Midſummer, and it is told me, that ye amongſt others are named to be made a Knight at the Coronation.

Item, it is ſaid, that the Coronation done, the King will *(go)* into the north part forthwith; and therefore ſhall not the parliament hold, but Writs ſhall go into every ſhire to give them, that are choſen Knights of the ſhire, day after Michaelmas; this is told me by ſuch as are right credible.

Maſter Brakle ſhall preach at Paul's on Sunday next coming, as he told me, and he told me, that for cauſe Childermas day fall on the Sunday, the Coronation ſhall *(be)* on the Monday.

Written in haſte at London, the Sunday next tofore Midſummer.

Your right poor Servant,

JAMES GRESHAM.

London,
Sunday, 21ſt of June,
1461, 1 E. IV.

not the caſe, they obſerved only the 28th day of every month, as a Childermas day, and therefore ominous.

But ſuppoſing it to have been either way, we here find this piece of ſuperſtition countenanced by a Prieſt, and celebrated Preacher; for ſuch we muſt ſuppoſe Fryer Brakle, the Perſon appointed to preach at St. Paul's, at ſo public a time as the day preceding a Coronation.

James Greſham was a Gentleman of a good Family in Norfolk, afterwards famous for having produced ſo public ſpirited a man as Sir Thomas Greſham, Founder of the Royal Exchange, &c. Pl. III. N° 28.

LETTER UJ.

To the Worſhipfull John Paſton and Wyll'm Rokewode Squyeris and to eu'ych of them.

RIGHT worſhipfull Coſynes I recum'aund me to yow and for as mech as I am credybilly informyd how that Sir Myles Stapylton knyght w^t other yll dyſpoſed p'ſones defame and ffalſly noyſe me in morderyng of Thomas Denys the Crown' and how that I intend to make Inſurexyōes contrari unto the law. And that the ſeyd Stapylton ffer'ymore noyſeth me w^r gret Robries, in whech defamacyoēs and fals noyſyngs the ſeyd Stapylton, and in that his ſaying he is ffals, that know^t God, &c. And for my playn acq'tayll yf he or any Subſtancyall Gentylman wyll ſay it and avow it, I ſay to it contrari. And by liſens of the Kyng to make it good as a Gentylman. And in this my playn exſkeus, I pray yow to opyn it unto the Lords that the ſeyd Stapylton, &c. makyn gret gaderyngs of the Kyngs Rebelyones lying in wayte to mord'r me. And in that I may make opyn proff. Wretyn in haſt the x day of July A° R R E iiij i°.

John Berneye.

12 by 4 ½.

Remēbre to take à wryht to cheſe Crown'es in Norff.

LET-

We have here the unhappy condition of a Nation harraſſed by civil diſſenſions pointed out. Each party will commit Crimes, of which, at any other time the very name would ſhock them, and accuſations of the moſt horrid offences will be continually preferred by one party againſt the other.

Private Duelling was unknown here at this period, and long after; the King's Licence for

LETTER VI.

To the worſhipful John Paſton, and William Rokewode, Eſquires, and to evereach [each] of them.

RIGHT worſhipful Couſins, I recommend me to you; and for as much as that I am credibly informed how that Sir Myles Stapylton knight, with other ill-diſpoſed perſons, defame and falſly noiſe me in murdering of Thomas Denys the Coroner; and how that I intend to make Inſurrections contrary unto the law; and that the ſaid Stapylton farthermore noiſeth me with great robberies, in which defamations and falſe noiſings the ſaid Stapylton, &c. in that his ſaying, he is falſe, that know it God, &c. And for my plain acquital, if he or any ſubſtantial Gentleman will ſay it, and avow it; I ſay to it contrary; and by licence of the King to make it good as a Gentleman. And in this my plain excuſe, I pray you to open it unto the Lords, that the ſaid Stapylton, &c. make great gatherings of the King's rebellions [*Rebels*] lying in wait to murder me; and in that I may make open proof, &c. Written in haſte the 10th day of July, in the 1ſt year of the reign of Edward IV.

JOHN BERNEYE.

Remember to take a writ to chooſe Coroners in Norfolk.

10th of July, 1461, 1 E. IV.

for a Combat was neceſſary to be obtained; this procured, the Combat proceeded publicly: in all matters of Treaſon, the vanquiſhed Party was immediately executed.

The Stapyltons were a family of conſequence in Yorkſhire, &c.

John Berney was of an ancient family in Norfolk, then ſituated at Witchingham, the deſcendants of this family were raiſed to the rank of Baronet in 1620. Pl. v. N° 15.

LET-

LETTER UJJ.

To the Worſhipfull John Paſton and to my Coſyn Wyll'm Rokewode Squyer w^t my Lord of Cantyrburi.

RIGHT worſhipfull Sir I Recum'aund me to yow praying yow hertyli to labour for that the Kyng may wryte unto me gevyng me thankyng of y^e good wyll and ſervyſe that I haff doo unto hym and in beyng w^t hym a yens his adu'ſaries and Rebelyones as well in the North as in this Cuntre of Norff. And in that the Kyng ſhold pleaſe the Comynnes in this Cuntre, ffor they grudge and ſey how that the Kyng Reſayvith ſych of this Cuntre, &c. as haff be his gret Eanemyes, and Opreſſeors of the Comynes, and ſych as haff aſſyſtyd his Hynes be not Rewardyt, and it is to be conſedery'd or ellys it wyll hurt as me ſemyth by Reaſon, and in ayd of this chaungebyll Rewle it wer neſſeſſary to move the good Lords Sp'retuall and Temp'all by the whech y^t myght be Reformyd, &c. and in cas that any of myn olde Enemyes [1] Tudynh'm [2] Stapylton and [3] Heydon w^t

It was certainly incumbent upon the King to pay every mark of attention to thoſe who had eſpouſed his cauſe, and helped to ſeat him on the throne, and to make them appear with conſequence amongſt their Tenants and Dependants, as noticed and rewarded by him; at the ſame time, it was certainly a wiſe meaſure in the Prince, to endeavour to attach to his intereſt as many as he could of thoſe who had eſpouſed a contrary party. This Edward ſeems to have been endeavouring to accompliſh, though, if we may ſuppoſe the Writer of this Letter unbiaſſed, he began already to neglect thoſe who had ſerved him in the moſt critical time.

theyr

LETTER VII.

To the Worſhipful John Paſton, and to my Couſin William Rokewode, Eſquire, with my Lord of Canterbury.

RIGHT worſhipful Sir, I recommend me to you, praying you heartily to labour for, that the King may write unto me; giving me thanks of the goodwill and ſervice that I have done unto him, and in being with him againſt his adverſaries and rebellions, as well in the North, as in this Country of Norfolk. And in that the King ſhould pleaſe the Commons in this Country; for they grudge and ſay, how that the King receiveth ſuch of this Country, &c. as have been his great Enemies, and Oppreſſors of the Commons; and ſuch as have aſſiſted his Highneſs, be not rewarded; and it is to be conſidered, or elſe it will hurt as me ſeemeth by Reaſon; and in aid of this changeable Rule, it were neceſſary to move the good Lords Spiritual and Temporal, by the which it might be reformed, &c. And in caſe that any of mine old Enemies [1] Tudenham, [2] Stapylton, and [3] Heydon, with their affinity, labour

[1] Sir Thomas Tudenham was a Lancaſtrian, and being ſuſpected, together with John de Vere, Earl of Oxford, his ſon Aubrey, and others, of correſponding with Queen Margaret, was arreſted, tried, and convicted before John, Earl of Worceſter, and beheaded on Tower Hill, in February, 1461. Sir Thomas was at that time about 62 years of age.

[2] Sir Myles Stapylton, Knight, of Ingham, in Norfolk.

[3] John Heydon was a Lawyer of eminence, in the reign of Henry VI. and afterwards in that of Edward IV. whereby he advanced his family and fortune, and died in 1480.

the

theyr affenyte labur the Kyng and Lords unto my hurt, I am and wylbe Redy to come to my Sou'ayn Lord for my exſkeus, ſoo y^{t} I may come ſaff for unlawfull hurt, purveyed by my ſeyd Ennemyes, no more at this tyme but God preſerve yow in gras. Wretyn at Wychyngh'm the xvj day in the moneth of July ā° R R E iiij^{ti} 1°.

[5] John Berneye.

12 by 3 ¾.

Plcaſe it yow to move this unto my Lords [4] Cauntyrburi Ely Norwych, &c.

[4] Thomas Bourchier was Archbiſhop of Canterbury, William Gray Biſhop of Ely, and Walter Hart Biſhop of Norwich.

LETTER UIJJ.

To my full worſhipfull ſpeciall gode Maiſt' John Paſton Squyer abidyng at Norwich.

RIGHT worſhipfull S^{r}. and ſome tyme my mooſt ſpeciall gode Maſter I recom'aunde me unto yo^{r} gode Maiſterſhip w^{t} all my pour ſ'uice if it may in any wiſe ſuffice and farther more S^{r}. I beſeche you nowe beyng in your countre where ye may deily call unto you my Maiſt' S^{r} Thomas [1] Howys, ones to remembre my pour mater and by your diſcretions to take

The Writer (Pl. 111. N° 32,) in the former part of this Letter ſeems to accuſe his Maſter Paſton of delay, in fulfilling the truſts in Sir John Faſtolf's Will, to whom he was executor. Pl. xiv. N° 19.

the King and Lords unto my hurt; I am and will be ready to come to my Sovereign Lord for my excuſe; ſo that I may come ſafe for unlawful hurt, purveyed by my ſaid Enemies. No more at this time, but God preſerve you in grace. Written at Witchingham, the 16th day of the month of July, in the 1ſt year of the reign of Edward IV.

[5] JOHN BERNEYE.

Witchingham,
16th of July, 1461,
1 E. IV.

Pleaſe it you move this unto my Lords [4] Canterbury, Ely, Norwich, &c.

This Letter is ſealed with an oval Seal of Wax, having a braid of twine round it. Pl. XIV. N° 18.

[5] Autograph. Pl. v. N° 15.

LETTER VIII.

To my full worſhipful, and ſpecial good Maſter, John Paſton, Eſquire, abiding at Norwich.

RIGHT worſhipful Sir, and ſome time my moſt ſpecial good Maſter, I recommend me unto your good Maſterſhip, with all my poor ſervice, if it may in any wiſe ſuffice; and farthermore Sir I beſeech you, now being in your country, where ye may daily call unto you my Maſter Sir Thomas [1] Howys, once [*ſome time or other*] to remember my poor matter;

[1] Sir Thomas Howys was Parſon of Blofield, in Norfolk.

ſuch a direction theryn and ſo to conclude, as may be to your diſcharge and to my furtherance, accordyng to the will of hym that is paſſed unto Gode, whoſe ſaull I p'y Jh'u p'done, ffor truly S^r^. ther was in hym no faute but in me onely yf it be not as I have remembred your Maiſterſhip affore thy tyme ffor truly S^r^. I der ſay I ſhuld have had as ſpeciall and as gode a Maiſter of you as any pour man as I am w^t^yn England ſhuld have hadd of a worſhipfull man as ye ar yf ye had neu' medulled the godes of my Maiſter ff, and as moche ye wold have done and labored fore me in my right if it hadde byn in the handes of any oder man than of your ſelf anely. But I truſte in Gode at your next comyng to have an anſwere ſuch as I ſhalbe content w^t^. And yf it may be ſo, I am and ſhalbe your ſ'uñt in that I can or may, that knoith our Lord Jh'u whom I beſech ſave and ſend you a gode ende in all your maters to your pleiſer and worſhip eu'laſtyng, Amen Writton at London iiij^to^ die Octobr.

As fore tidyngs the Kyng wolbe at London w^t^yn iij deies next comyng, and all the Caſtelles and Holdes in South Wales and in North Wales ar gyfen and yelden up into the Kynges hand, and the Duc of [2] Exceſtre and Therle of [3] Pembrok ar ſtoon and taken the Mounteyns and dyūs Lordes w^t^ gret puiſſans ar after them, and the mooſt p't of Gentilmen and men of worſhip ar comen yn to the Kyng and have g'ce of all Wales.

[2] Henry Holland; he married Lady Anne, Siſter to Edward IVth. but continued firm to the intereſt of the Houſe of Lancaſter. He lived and died abroad, in great poverty and diſtreſs. Some ſay his Corpſe was found on the Sea ſhore in Kent.

and by your diſcretions to take ſuch a direction therein, and ſo to conclude, as may be to your diſcharge, and to my furtherance; according to the Will of him that is paſſed unto God, whoſe ſoul I pray Jeſu pardon! for truly, Sir, there was in him no fault, but in me only; if it be not as I have remembered your Maſterſhip afore this time. For truly, Sir, I dare ſay I ſhould have had as ſpecial, and as good a Maſter of you as any poor man, as I am, within England ſhould have had of a worſhipful man, as you are, if ye had never *meddled with* the Goods of my Maſter Faſtolf.

And as much ye would have done, and laboured for me, in my right, if it had been in the hands of any other man than of yourſelf only. But, I truſt in God, at your next coming, to have an anſwer, ſuch as I ſhall be content with; and if it may be ſo; I am and ſhall be your Servant in that I can or may, that knoweth our Lord Jeſus, whom I beſeech ſave, and ſend you a good end in all your matters, to your pleaſure and worſhip everlaſting, Amen. Written at London, the 4th day of October.

As for Tidings, the King will be at London within three days next coming, and all the Caſtles and Holds both in South Wales and in North Wales, are given, and yielded up, into the King's hand; and the Duke of [2] Exeter and the Earl of [3] Pembroke are fled and *(have)* taken the Mountains, and divers Lords with great puiſſance are after them. And the moſt part of Gentlemen, and men of worſhip are come in to the King, and have

[3] Jaſper Tudor, of Hatfield, half-brother to Henry VI. he was afterwards Duke of Bedford.

The Duc of [4]Som's' the Lord [5]Hungerford Robt Whityng-ham and oder iiij or v Squyers ar comen into Normandy out of Scotland and as yette they ſtand ſtrete under areſt, and as M'chauntes that ar comen late thens ſey, they ar like to be demed and jugged priſon's, my Lord [6]Wenlok, Sr. John Cley and the Dean of Seynt Seu'yens have abiden at Cales thiſe iij Wikes and yette ar there, abidyng a ſaufconduit, goyng uppon an Am-baſſate to the ffrenſhe [7]Kyng, and Sr. Wauter [8]Blount Tre-ſorer of Cales wt a grete feleſhip of Souldeours of Cales and many oder men of the Marches have leyn and yette doo at a Seege afore the Caſtell of Hampmes by ſide Cales and deily make gret werre either p'te toother. Itm I ſend unto you a Copy of a Lett' that was taken uppon the See, made by the Lord Hungerford and Whytyngh'm. It' we ſhall have a gret Am-baſſate out of Scotland in all haſt of Lordes.

At your comaundement and Servaunt,

Henry Wyndeſore.

11 ½ by 10 ½.
Paper Mark,
Bull's Head and Star.
Pl. x. N° 1.

LET-

[4] Henry Beaufort, he was beheaded in 1463, after the battle of Hexham.

[5] Robert, Lord Hungerford, was beheaded in 1463, for endeavouring to reſtore Henry VI.

[6] John, Lord Wenlock, left the York Party, and joined that of Lancaſter, but neg-lecting

grace of all Wales. The Duke of [4] Somerſet, the Lord [5] Hungerford, and Robert Whityngham, and other four or five Eſquires, are come unto Normandy out of Scotland, and as yet they ſtand ſtrait under arreſt; and as Merchants that are come late thence ſay; they are like to be deemed and judged Priſoners. My Lord [6] Wenlock, Sir John Cley, and the Dean of Saint Severin's, have abode at Calais theſe three weeks, and yet are there abiding a ſafe Conduct, going upon an Embaſſy to the French [7] King. And Sir Walter [8] Blount, Treaſurer of Calais, with a great Fellowſhip of Soldiers of Calais, and many other men of the Marches, have lain, and yet do, at a Siege afore the Caſtle of Hammes, by-ſide Calais, and daily make great war, either party to other.

Item, I ſend unto you a Copy of a Letter that was taken upon the Sea, made by the Lord Hungerford and Whityngham.

Item, we ſhall have a great Embaſſy out of Scotland in all haſte of Lords.

At your Commandment, and Servant,

HENRY WYNDESORE.

London,
4th of October, 1461,
1 E. IV.

lecting to come up in time at the battle of Tewkſbury, in 1471, Edmund, Duke of Somerſet, cleft him down with a battle ax.

[7] Lewis XI.

[8] He was created Lord Montjoy, in 1465, and obtained part of the Eſtates of the attainted Thomas Courtney, Earl of Devonſhire.

LET-

LETTER XJ.

The following is the Copy of the Letter encloſed to his Maiſt' Paſton.

A la Reyne D'engleterre

Eſcote.

MADAM pleaſe it yo[r] gode God we have ſith our comyng hider writen to yo[r] Highnes thryes the laſt we ſent by [1] Bruges to be ſent to you by the firſt veſſell that went into Scotland the oder ij letters we ſent from [2] Depe the t'on by the Carvell in the whiche we came and the oder in a noder veſſell but ma dam all was oon thyng in ſubſtance of puttyng you in knolege of the [3] Kyng your uncles deth whom God aſſoyll and howe we ſtade areſt and doo yet, but on tuyſday next we truſt and underſtande we ſhall up to the [4] Kyng yo[r]. Coſyn germayn, his Comyſſaries at the firſt of our tarrying toke all our letters and writyngs and bere theym up to the Kyng levyng my Lord of Som'ſet in kepyng atte Caſtell of Arkes and my felowe Whityngham and me, ffor we had ſauff conduct in the Town of Depe where we ar yete. But on Tyyſday next we underſtande that it pleaſeth the ſaid Kyngs Highnes that we ſhall come to hys p'ſence and ar charged to bring us up Mon'ſ[r] de Creſſell nowe Baillyf of Canſe and Mon'ſ[r] de la Mot Ma dam ferth you not but be of gode comfort and beware that ye aventure not your p'ſon, ne my Lord the Prynce by the See, till ye have oder word from us in leſſe than your p'ſon cannot be ſure there

This Copy is written by Henry Windſor, and having the ſame Paper Mark with the foregoing Original Letter, is that which was ſent with it to his Maſter Paſton, to whom it is directed.

We here ſee the ſuſpicious ſtate the Adherents of the Queen were in abroad, though in the

LETTER IX.

To the Queen of England,

in Scotland,

MADAM, pleaſe it your good God, we have ſince our coming hither, written to your Highneſs thrice; the firſt, we ſent by [1] Bruges, to be ſent to you by the firſt veſſel that went into Scotland; the other two Letters were ſent from [2] Diepe, the one, by the Carvel in the which we came; and the other, in another veſſel; but, madam, all was one thing in ſubſtance, of putting you in knowledge of the [3] King your Uncle's death, whom God aſſoyl [*pardon*], and how we ſtade [*ſtood*] arreſted, and do yet. But on Tueſday next we truſt and underſtand, we ſhall up to the [4] King your Couſin Germain. His Commiſſaries, at the firſt of our tarrying, took all our Letters, and Writings, and bare them up to the King; leaving my Lord of Somerſet in keeping at *(the)* Caſtle of Arkes; and my Fellow Whityngham and me, (for we had ſafe conduct) in the Town of Diepe; where we are yet. But on Tueſday next we underſtand, that it pleaſeth the ſaid King's Highneſs, that we ſhall come to his preſence: and are charged to bring us up, Monſieur de Creſſell now Bailiff of Canſe and Monſieur de la Mot.

Madam, ferth [*fear*] you not, but be of good comfort, and beware that ye adventure not your perſon, ne my Lord the Prince, by the Sea, till ye have other word from us; in leſs than

the kingdom of her Couſin Germain. What a fall for poor King Henry, from a throne to the attendance of four men and a boy!

[1] A City and Port Town in Flanders.

[2] A Port Town, in the Province of Normandy, in France.

[3] Charles VII. King of France, died 22d of July, 1461, aged 60.

[4] Lewis XI. King of France.

[*unleſs*

there as ye ar that extreme neceſſite dryfe you thens and for God ſake the Kyngs Highnes be advyſed the ſame, ffor as we be enformed Therll of [5] March is into Wales by land and hath ſent his navy thider by ſee, and Ma Dame thynketh verily we ſhall not ſoner be delyvered but y[t] we woll come ſtreght to you w[t]aut Deth take us by the wey, the which we truſt he woll not till we ſee the Kyng and you peiffible ayene in your Reame, the which we beſech God ſoon to ſee and to ſend you that your Highnes deſireth. Writen at Depe the xxx[ti] dey of Auguſt.

Yo[r] true Subgettes and
Liege men, [6] Hungerford,
[7] Whityngham.

8 ½ by 11 ½.
Paper Mark,
Bull's Head and Star.
Pl. x. N° 1.

At the bottom of the Copy of the Letter is added

Theſe ar the names of thoſe men that ar in Scotland w[t] the Quene.

The Kyng Herry is at Kirkhowbre w[t] iiij men and a childe
Quene Margaret is at Edenburgh and hir Son.
The Lord [8] Roos and his Son.

John Ormond
Will'm Taylboys
S[r]. John Fforteſcu
S[r]. Thomas ffyndern
S[r]. Edmund Hampden
S[r]. Henry Roos
John Courteney
Myrfyn of Kent.
Waynesford of London
Thom' Thompſon of Guynes
Thom' Brampton of Guynes
John Audeley of Guynes
Langheyn of Irland
Thomas Philip of Gppeſwich
Dauſon
Thom' Burnby
Borret of Suſſex
S[r]. John Welpdalle
M' Rog' Clerk of London
John Retford late Coubitt
Giles Sencklowe
John Hawt.

5 Edward IV. King of England.

6 Robert, Lord Hungerford, was a ſteady friend to the Houſe of Lancaſter, and being taken in arms, endeavouring to reſtore Henry VI. was beheaded in 1463.

LET.

[*unleſs that*] your perſon cannot be ſure there as ye are [*where you are*], and that extreme neceſſity drive you thence. And for God's ſake *(let)* the King's Highneſs be adviſed the ſame; for as we be informed, the Earl of [5] March is into Wales by land, and hath ſent his Navy thither by Sea. And, Madam, think verily, we ſhall not ſooner be delivered, but that we will come ſtraight to you, without Death take us by the way; the which we truſt he will not, till we ſee the King and you peaceable again in your Realm; the which we beſeeeh God ſoon to ſee, and to ſend you that your Highneſs deſireth. Written at Diepe, the 30th day of Auguſt.

Your true Subjects and

Diepe,
30th of Auguſt, 1461,
1 E. IV.

Liege men, [6] HUNGERFORD.
[7] WHITYNGHAM.

Theſe are the names of thoſe men that are in Scotland with the Queen.

The King Harry is at Kirkhowbre [*Kirkudbright*] with four men and a child.

Queen Margaret is at Edenburgh and her Son.

The Lord [8] Roos and his Son.

John Ormond	Myrfyn of Kent	Danſon
Will'm Taylboys	Waynesford of London	Thoˢ Burnby
Sr. John Forteſcue	Thoˢ Thompſon of Guynes	Borret of Suſſex
Sr. Thoˢ Fyndern	Thoˢ Brampton of Guynes	Sr John Welpdale
Sr. Edmund Hampden	John Audeley of Guynes	Mr. Rogr Clerk of London
Sr. Henry Roos	Langheyn of Ireland	John Retford late Coubitt
John Courtney	Thoˢ Philip of Ipſwich	Giles Seintlowe
		John Hawt.

[7] Sir Robert Whityngham and Sir Edward Hampden were ſlain at the battle of Tewkeſbury, in 1471.

[8] Thomas, Lord Roos, and his Son Edmund, the former was beheaded in 1463, after the battle of Hexham.

LETTER X.

Md. this is the confeſſyon of xvj ffrenſhemē wt the Maſtyr takyn at She'yngm' ye iij wek of lent.

RIGHT Worſhipfull Sr. I recomaund me to you and lete you wytte yt I have be at Shiryngh'm and examyned ye frenſhmen to ye nombre of xvj wt ye Maiſt. And yei telle yt ye Duke of Som' is in to Scotland and yei ſey ye Lord Hungyrforthe was on monday laſt paſſed afore Sheryngh'm in to Scotland ward in a kervyle of Depe, no gret power wt hym ne wt ye ſeid Duk neyther. And yei ſey yt ye Duk of [1] Burgoyn is poyſened and not like to recou'e and as for powers to be gadered ageynſt our weelfare yei ſey y' ſhulde come in to [2] Seyne CC gret [3] forſtages owt of Spayne from ye [4] Kyng yre and CCC Shippes from ye Duk of [5] Bretayne wt ye navy of ffraunce, but yei be not yet aſſembled ne vitayll yere p'veyd as yei ſey ne men, And ye Kyng of [6] ffraunce is in to Spayne on pilgrymage wt fewe hors as yei ſey what ye p'poſe is yei can not telle certeyn, &c. In haſt at Norwich.

I have given this as the contents of a paper, which accompanies the two foregoing Letters, but how far they merit any regard I cannot pretend to ſay. The Writer ſeems to doubt the truth of many of the aſſertions, as he adds to almoſt every one of them "as they ſay."

It relates to the return of the Duke of Somerſet, &c. from France into Scotland, to join Queen Margaret, and muſt have been written in or about 1462.

The

L E T T E R X.

Memorandum. This is the confeſſion of ſixteen Frenchmen with the Maſter, taken at Sharringham (in Norfolk,) the third week of Lent.

RIGHT worſhipful Sir, I recommend me to you, and let you weet, that I have been at Sharringham and examined the Frenchmen, to the number of ſixteen with the Maſter; and they tell, that the Duke of Somerſet is into Scotland, and they ſay the Lord Hungerford was on Monday laſt paſt afore Sharringham into Scotlandward in a Kervel [*Carvel*] of Diepe, no great power with him, ne with the ſaid Duke neither. And they ſay that the Duke of [1] Burgoyn is poiſoned and not like to recover.

And as for powers to be gathered againſt our welfare; they ſay, there ſhould come into [2] Seyne 200 great [3] forſtages out of Spain from the [4] King there; and 300 Ships from the Duke of [5] Bretagne with the Navy of France, but they be not yet aſſembled, ne victual there purveyed, as they ſay, ne men. And the [6] King of France is into Spain on Pilgrimage with few horſe as they ſay; what the purpoſe is, they cannot tell certain, &c.

In haſte at Norwich.

[1] Charles the Bold, Duke of Burgundy, was ſlain in 1477.
[2] A River in France.
[3] Large Ships were Ships with foreſtages, or forecaſtles.
[4] Henry IV. King of Spain, died in 1474.
[5] Francis II. laſt Duke of Bretagne, died in 1488.
[6] Lewis XI. King of France, died in 1483.

The Kyng of Fran's hath comitted the rewle of Bordews on to the marchaunds of the tō, and the [7] browd tha be therin to be at ther wages, and like as Caleys is a Stapole of wolle here in England ſo is that made ſtaple of wyne.

John Fermer preſon[r] ſeyth on John Gylys a clerk y[t] was w[t] the Erle of Oxforthe wych was ſome tym in Kyng Herrys hows was a prevy Secretary w[t] the Erle of Oxforthe, and if any wryty'g wer mad' by the ſeyd Erle the ſeyd Gylys knew ther of in this gret maty'rs.

8 ½ by 4 ½.

7 This word is imperfect in the Original Paper, perhaps it means they bruit.

LETTER XJ.

To my right truſti and welbelovid ffrend John Paſton Eſquier.

RIGHT worſhipfull, and myn enterly welbelovyd frend I recomaund me un to you hertely thankyng you of your gret p'ſent of ffiſch and of the felyſhipp that my Coſyn your ſonne ſhewid unto me att Norwiche p'poſyng be the grace of God to def've it un to you in tyme to come in ſuch place as I may do for you.

Deſiryng you ſpecyally wher as a Tenūt of myne of Lavenham called John Fermōr is ſeſid and areſtid w'in the Towne of Yermowth be cauſe he dwellid with the Erle of Oxonfords

Son and p'poſid to have paſſid the See w'ou lycence, and ſtond-

[2] yth

The King of France hath committed the rule of Bordeaux unto the Merchants of the town and the [7] .. .. . that be therein to be at their wages; and like as Calais is a ſtaple of wool here in England, ſo is that made a ſtaple of wine.

John Fermer priſoner ſaith, one John Giles a Clerk that was with the Earl of Oxford, which was ſome time in King Harry's Houſe, was a privy Secretary with the Earl of Oxford; and if any writing were made by the ſaid Earl, the ſaid Giles knew thereof in this great matter.

Norwich,
March 1461-2,
2 E. IV.

LETTER XI.

To my right truſty and well beloved Friend, John Paſton, Eſquire.

RIGHT worſhipful, and mine entirely well beloved Friend, I recommend me unto you, heartily thanking you of your great Preſent of Fiſh, and of the Fellowſhip that my Couſin your Son ſhewed unto me at Norwich, propoſing by the grace of God to deſerve it unto you in time to come, in ſuch place as I may do for you. Deſiring you ſpecially, whereas a Tenant of mine of Lavenham, called John Fermor, is ſeized, and arreſted within the Town of Yarmouth, becauſe he dwelled with the Earl of Oxford's Son, and propoſed to have paſſed the Sea without

yth out of the conceyte of much peple, I wold desyre you, that ye wold wryte to the Baylyffs of Yermouth to delyu' the seid John Fermor to my s'vñt John Brenerigg bryng^r of this, with an officer of the seid Towne to be caried un to the Kyngs Castell of Rysing at my cost, ther to be examynid of certeyne Artycules which I may not disclose til I have spoke with the Kyngs Highnes, praying you to wryte to the seid Bayliffs that I shall be her suffisant Discharge ayenst the Kynge.

Desyryng yow to geve credence to the bryng^r herof, as my verray trust is in yow.

Wretyn at Lavenham the xxv^th day of Marche.

Your trew and feithfull frend, havyng no blame
for my gode wylle,
John Wykes.
Ussher of the Kyngs Chambr'.

11 ½ by 6.

LET.

This Letter appears to have been written the year after the Accession of Edward IV. as in the February preceding this Letter John de Vere, Earl of Oxford, and Aubrey his Son, were beheaded.

The Informations then given might probably make it necessary to have many of their Dependants and Servants taken into custody and detained in prison.

The

desire you, that ye would write to the Bailiffs of Yarmouth to deliver the said John Fermor to my servant John Brenerigg, bringer of this, with an officer of the said town, to be carried unto the King's Castle of Rising at my cost; there to be examined of certain Articles, which I may not disclose, till I have spoken with the King's Highness.

Praying you to write to the said Bailiffs, that I shall be their sufficient discharge against the King, desiring you to give credence to the bringer hereof, as my very trust is in you.

Written at Lavenham, the 25th day of March.

Your true and faithful Friend, having no blame for my good Will,

JOHN WYKES,

Usher of the King's Chamber.

Lavenham,
Thursday, 25th of March,
1462, 2 E. IV.

The Attention of the Father and Son to the writer of this Letter, who appears to have been a confidential Servant of Edward, seems to be directed to the obtaining of his Favour with the King on their behalf. Pl. v. N° 16. Pl. xiv. N° 20.

Lavenham, in Suffolk, had been in the possession of the de Veres, from the reign of Henry I. The Church there, is a noble and elegant Structure, and was built by them and the Family of Spring.

LETTER XIJ.

To my worchepful Mayſt' John Paſton ye holdeſt be yis lett' delyu'yd in haſt.

RYTH reu'rent and worchepful Sre I hartyly Recomēde me on to yor Reu'ens thanky'g yow for the gret cher and comfortabyll words that ye yovȳ on to me wat tyme yt I was laſt ȳ yor p'ſens, deſyry'g ful ſpecyaly of alm'ty God owt of al yor wordly t'bulacyonys and adu'ſyte gracyowus delyu'ans, and yn al u'tuows p'ſp'ite good encres and cōtyn'ans. If yt leke yor Mayſt'chep to know ye cauſe of ys wryty'g it ys thys, it is nowthn know on to yow yt Mayſt' Brakle cryſt reſt hys ſowle delyu'yd to Wyllam Paſton yor brod' c'tayn oblygacyonys of ye weche ye dute xuld grow to my Cōvent yn Norwyche, I have ſpoke on to Wyllām Paſton her of and he excuſeth hym and ſeyth on ys wyſe yt be ye wyl of Mayſt' [1]Brakle, wat tyme yt Sre Tomas [2]Todenh'm knyth xuld be put on to hys deth he delyu'yd

This Letter exhibits to us the ſtyle of Eccleſiaſtics to their Patrons, and varies ſomewhat from the generality of this Collection in its ſpelling and contractions.

[1] John Brakle, a Fryer of the Monaſtery at Norwich—in a Letter to J. Paſton, he ſigns himſelf "Minimorum Minimus."

[2] Sir Thomas Todenham, Knight, was born in 1399, and, before he was at age, married Anne, Daughter of John Wodehouſe, Eſquire, from whom, in 1436, he was divorced on proof, and on her own confeſſion, of Adultery, ſhe having before left him and become a profeſſed Nun, at Crabhouſe, in Wigenhall, in Norfolk.

In

LETTER XII.

To my worſhipful Maſter, John Paſton the oldeſt, be this Letter delivered in haſt.

RIGHT reverend and worſhipful Sir, I heartily recommend me unto your Reverence, thanking you for the great cheer and comfortable words, that ye gave unto me what time that I was laſt in your preſence; deſiring full ſpecially of Almighty God, out of all your worldly tribulations and adverſity, gracious deliverance, and in all virtuous proſperity, good increaſe and continuance. If it like your Maſterſhip to know the cauſe of this writing, it is this; it is not known unto you, that Maſter Brakle, Chriſt reſt his ſoul! delivered to William Paſton your brother, certain obligations, of the which the duty ſhould grow to my Convent in Norwich.

I have ſpoke to William Paſton hereof, and he excuſeth him and ſaith on this wiſe; that by the Will of Maſter [1] Brakle, what time that Sir Thomas [2] Todenham Knight, ſhould be put

In February, 1461, he, together with John de Vere, Earl of Oxford, Aubrey de Vere, his Son and Heir, John Clopton, John Montgomery, and William Tyrrel, Eſq. were arreſted by John, Earl of Worceſter, Conſtable of England, on ſuſpicion of having received Letters from Margaret, Queen of King Henry VI. and being convicted before the ſaid Earl, were all beheaded (except Clopton) on Tower Hill, 22d of February, 1461.

He made his Will in the Tower, the morning of his Execution, and at the ſame time, I ſuppoſe, executed theſe Obligations containing ſomething advantageous to the Convent at Norwich.

delyu'yd hē on to hys c'feſſor y^e weche as he ſeth xuld a be Grey fryer hows name he knowyth nowt, alſo he ſeyth y^t aft' y^e deth of y^e forſeyd knyt, he ſpake w^t y^e fryer cōfeſſo^r on to y^e knyth and haſked hym aftyr y^e forſeyd oblygacyonys and as he ſeyth y^e fryer ſeyd on to hȳ y^t he had delyu'yd hē on to knyth m'chall, werfor I beſeche you as ſpecyaly as I may y^t now wyl yo^r brod' is at London y^t ye of yo^r grace wyl know y^e trowthe in y^s mat' for y^e cōfort of y^e dede and p'fyth of my cōvēt, nomor at y^s tyme but y^t I be ſeche Almyty God in t'nyte c'ſerve yo^r and kepe yow in all v'tuows p'ſp'ite Amē.

Wretȳ at Heylyſdon in gret haſt y^e xij day of May in yo^r man^r aftyr mete, the cauſe wy y^e Mayſt' delyveryd hē to hȳ mor than to yow was as he ſeyd on to me, for as meche as ye had ſo many maters yn hand for yo^r ſelf and alſo for y^e dede y^t he durſt not attēpt yow w^t all and al ſo be cauſe he had leſſe for to do hys hope was y^t he xuld aſped yt mor r'dyly.

Frre Will'm Thorp dwellyng at Saliſbury.

By yo^r por' orator and bedmā.

[3] Frier Jan Mowth.

11 ½ by 6 ½.

LET-

[3] Blomefield, in his valuable Hiſtory of Norfolk and Norwich, in vol. ii. p. 434. mentions John Molet, LL. D. as the late Sub Prior, and now Prior (1453—1471) of the Monaſtery in Norwich, and ſpeaks of him as a Favourite of John Paſton. I ſhould ſuppoſe from the Expreſſions in this Letter of "my Convent" that John Mowth, the writer of it was the Prior, and that Blomefield miſtook the name; for the ow in Mowth may

unto his death, he delivered them unto his Confeſſor; the which, as he ſaith, ſhould be a Grey Friar, whoſe name, he knoweth not. Alſo, he ſaith, that after the death of the foreſaid knight, he ſpake with the Friar, Confeſſor unto the knight, and aſked him after the foreſaid obligations, and, as he ſaith, the Friar ſaid unto him, that he had delivered them unto *(the)* Knight Marſhall.

Wherefore I beſeech you, as ſpecially as I may, that now while your brother is at London, that ye of your grace will know the truth in this matter, for the comfort of the dead, and profit of my Convent.

No more at this time, but that I beſeech Almighty God in Trinity conſerve yours, and keep you in all virtuous proſperity. Amen.

Written at Helleſdon in great haſte, the 12th day of May, in your Manor after Meat.

The cauſe, why the Maſter delivered them to him more than to you, was, as he ſaid unto me, for as much as ye had ſo many matters in hand for yourſelf, and alſo for the dead, that he durſt not attempt you with all; and alſo becauſe he had leſs for to do, his hope was, that he ſhould a ſped [*have done*] it more readily.

Friar William Thorp, dwells at Saliſbury.

By your poor Orator and Beadman,

[5] FRIAR JOHN MOWTH.

Helleſdon,
12th of May, 1462,
2 E. IV.

may eaſily be miſtaken for *le* by a perſon on a haſty inſpection, and not entirely uſed to decyphering the writing of thoſe times; if ſo, he made the name Moleth, and ſoftened it into Molet: I only give this as a conjecture, ariſing from the above reaſon, the date, and his intimacy with John Paſton. Pl. v. N° 17.

LETTER XIII.

To my right honorabil and w'ſhypfull Maiſt' my Maiſt' Paſton.

PLEASE it yōre w'ſhipfull Maiſtyrſhyp to wete that it is informyd me thys day ſcretly that there is dyrected out a com'yſſion to Mayſt' [1] Yelwyrton and Maiſt' Jenney which ſhall tomorwyr ſyttyn be vertu of the ſame at [2] Seynt Oleffes and the ſubſtaunce of Jentilmen and Yemen of Lodyngland be aſſygned to be afore the ſeyd Com'eſyoners and it is ſuppoſed it is for my Maiſters londs, for as the ſeyd p'ſone informyd me the ſeyd Comeſyoners have been at Cotton and there entred and holdyn a Court, I can not informe yōre Mayſtyrſhip that it is thus in ſ'teyn but thus it was told me and deſyryd me to kepe it ſecret, but be cauſe I conſeyue it is ageyn youre Maiſtyrſhip it is my part to geve you relacion thereof.

I ſende you a Letter which cometh from [3] W'ceſtyr to my Maiſt' youre Brothyr, I wold ye undyrſtod the intente of it for as for W'ceſt' I knowe well he is not good, ſum men ar beſy to make werre, for p' the abſentyng of my Maiſt' the p'ſon comyth not of hyſe owyn mocyon, but I wold yōre Maiſtyrſhip knewe be

The firſt part of this Letter relates to the diſputes concerning Sir John Faſtolf's Eſtates, and ſhews that proceedings concerning Property were often carried on in a clandeſtine manner.

whom

LETTER XIII.

To my right honourable and Worſhipful Maſter, my Maſter Paſton.

PLEASE it your worſhipful Maſterſhip to weet, that it is informed me this day ſecretly, that there is directed out a Commiſſion to Maſter [1] Yelverton and Maſter Jenney, which ſhall tomorrow ſit by virtue of the ſame at [2] Saint Olave's, and the ſubſtance of Gentlemen and Yeomen of Lothingland be aſſigned to be afore the ſaid Commiſſioners; and it is ſuppoſed it is for my Maſter's Lands, for as the ſaid perſon informed me, the ſaid Commiſſioners have been at Cotton, and there entered, and holden a Court; I cannot inform your Maſterſhip that it is thus in certain, but thus it was told me, and deſired me to keep it ſecret; but becauſe I conceive it is againſt your Maſterſhip, it is my part to give you relation thereof.

I ſend you a Letter which cometh from [3] Worceſter to my Maſter your Brother, I would ye underſtood the intent of it, for as for Worceſter, I know well he is not good.

Some men are buſy to make war, for *by* the abſenting of my Maſter, the Parſon cometh not of his own motion, but I would

[1] I ſuppoſe theſe were William Yelverton, a Judge of the King's Bench, and William Jenney, a Serjeant at Law.

[2] St. Olave's, a village in the hundred of Lothing, in Suffolk.

[3] William Worceſter was the Secretary and confidential Servant of Sir John Faſtolf, and one of his Executors.

your

whom it is mevyd, I herd you neu' calle hym falſe Pryſt be my trouth nor other language that is reherſyd hym, but Gode ſende a good Accord for of varyaunce comyth gret hurt of tyn tyme, and I beſeche J'hu ſende youre Maiſtyrſhip youre herts deſyre and amende hem that wold the contrary.

Sr. yeſt'euyn a man came from London and he ſeyth the Kyng cam to London on ſatyrday and there dede make a [4] p'clamacion that all men that were be twyx lx and xvj ſhuld be redy to wayte upon hym whan ſo eu' they were callyd and it is ſeyd that my Lord Warwyk had ſent to the Kyng and informyd hyſe Hyghneſſe that the Lord [5] Summyrſet had wretyn to hym to come to grace, but of the [6] fleet of Shyppis there is no tydings in ſ'teyn at London on monday laſt paſt.

Yōre bedman and ſ'vaunt,

[7] John Ruſſe.

11 ¼ by 5 ¾.

[4] A ſimilar proclamation is ſaid to have been iſſued in 1464.

[5] This Letter muſt have been written in 1462, as in that year the Duke of Somerſet was generouſly pardoned, but revolting, was taken at the battle of Hexham, and beheaded.

LETTER XIV.

To my right honorabyl and w'ſhypfull Maiſt' my Maiſt' John Paſton.

PLESE yōr W'ſhypfull Maiſterſhip to wette, her is a Ship of Hith wyche ſeith that John Cole cam from the weſt coſt on wednyſday laſt paſt and he ſeyth that the fleet of Shippis of this

londe

your Maſterſhip knew by whom it is moved. I heard you never call him falſe Prieſt, by my truth, nor other language that is rehearſed *(to or by)* him, but God ſend a good accord, for of variance cometh great hurt often time, and I beſeech Jeſu ſend your Maſterſhip your heart's deſire, and amend them that would the contrary.

Sir, yeſter even a man came from London, and he ſaith, the King came to London on Saturday, and there did make a [4] Proclamation that all men that were between 60 and 16 ſhould be ready to wait upon him whenſoever they were called; and it is ſaid, that my Lord Warwick had ſent to the King, and informed his Highneſs that the Lord [5] Somerſet had written to him to come to grace, but of the [6] Fleet of Ships there is no tidings in certain at London on Monday laſt paſt.

Your Beadman and Servant,

[7] JOHN RUSSE.

1462, 2 E. IV.

6 This Fleet was moſt probably that which our Hiſtorians mention as being ſent this year to Bretagne and the Iſle of Rhée, but of which the foreign Hiſtorians ſay nothing.

7 Autograph. Pl. v. N° 18. Pl. xiv. N° 21.

LETTER XIV.

To my right honourable and worſhipful Maſter, my Maſter John Paſton.

PLEASE your worſhipful Maſterſhip to weet, there is a Ship of Hythe, which ſaith, that John Cole came from the weſt coaſt on Wedneſday laſt paſt; and he ſaith, that the Fleet

londe met w^t lx ſeile of Spanyards Brettenys and Frenſhemen and there tok of hem l wherof xij ſhyppys were as gret as the Grace de Dewe, and there is ſlayn on thys partyes the Lords [1] Clynton and Dakyr and many Jentilmen [2] juve and othyr, the nombre of iiij^ml, and the ſeid Spanyards were purpoſyd w^t marchaundiſe in to Flaundres, my Lord of Warwyks ſhyp the Mary Grace and the Trenyte hadde the gretteſt hurt for they wer formoſt, God ſend Grace thys be trew on thurſday laſt paſt at London was no tydings in ſ'teyn where the flet was nor what they had doon and therfore I fere the tydings the more.

Itm S^r. as for tydings at London ther were aryſtyd be the treſorer xl ſeyles lyeng in Temſe wherof many ſmale ſhyppis and it is ſeyd it is to carye men to Caleyſe in all haſte for feer of the Kyng of Fraunce for a Sege and it was told me ſecretly there were CC in Caleyſe ſworn contrary to the Kyngs well, and for defaute of there wags and that Qwen Marget was redy at Boleyn w^t myche ſylver to paye the ſoudyers in cas they wold geve here entreſſe, many men be gretly aferd of thys mater, and ſo the treſorer hath mych to do for thys cauſe.

Itm S^r. as for tydings out of Ireland ther wer many men at London at the ffeyre of the contres next them of Ireland, and

This appears to contain the report of the day, relative to the Tranſactions of the Fleet, which was ſent out towards Brittany, in 1462, but which ſeems to have had no foundation, at leaſt no material one, as our Hiſtorians make no mention of ſuch an engagement, nor does the Writer (Pl. v. N. 18.) himſelf give much credit to the report. It however authenticates the truth of a fleet having been ſent out at that time.

[1] John, Lord Clinton, revolted from Henry VI. about 1459, and joined the Duke of York's Party, on which account his Lands were confiſcated, and himſelf attainted, but on

Fleet of Ships of this land met with 60 ſail of Spaniards, Bretons, and Frenchmen, and there took of them 50, whereof 12 Ships were as great as the Grace de Dieu; and there is ſlain on this part the Lords [1] Clinton and Dacre, and many Gentlemen [2] .. .. and others, the number of 4000; and the ſaid Spaniards were purpoſed with merchandiſe into Flanders; my Lord of Warwick's Ship, the Mary Grace, and the Trinity, had the greateſt hurt, for they were foremoſt. God ſend grace this be true. On Thurſday laſt paſt at London was no tidings in certain, where the fleet was, nor what they had done, and therefore I fear the tidings the more.

Item, Sir, as for tidings at London, there were arreſted by the Treaſurer 40 ſail lying in Thames, whereof many ſmall Ships; and it is ſaid, it is to carry men to Calais in all haſte, for fear of the King of France for a Siege; and it was told me ſecretly, there were 200 in Calais ſworn contrary to the King's weal; and for default of their wages; and that Queen Margaret was ready at Bologne with much ſilver to pay the ſoldiers, in caſe they would give her entrance; many men be greatly afraid of this matter, and ſo the Treaſurer hath much to do for this cauſe.

Item, Sir, as for tidings out of Ireland, there were many men at London, at the Fair of the countries next them of Ireland,

on the acceſſion of Edward IV. he was reſtored to his Eſtates and Honours, and ſoon after joined in commiſſion with the Earl of Kent, Sir John Howard, &c. for the ſafe keeping of the Seas, when landing in Brittany with 10,000 men, they won Conquet with the iſle of Rhée. He married Elizabeth, Daughter of Richard Fynes, Lord Dacre, and died in 1464, aged about 54 years; the report therefore of his death here mentioned was certainly premature, as was that likewiſe of Lord Dacre.

[2] This word is doubtful in the Original.

and they ſey thys iij wyks cam' there neythyr ſhyp nor boot out of Irelond to bryng no tydings and ſo it ſemyth there is myche to doo there be the Erle of [2] Penbrook, and it is ſeyd that the Kyng ſhuld be at London as on ſatyrday or ſonday laſt paſt, and men deme that he wold to Caleyſe hym ſelfe, for the Soudyors are ſo wyld there, that they wyll not lette in ony man but the Kynge or my Lord Warwyk.

Othyr tydings the were come to London but they were not p[b]lyſhyd, but John Wellys ſhal abyde a day the lenger to know what they are, no mere un to you my right honōable Maiſt' at thys tyme but Jh'u ſend yow youre herts deſyre, and amende hem that wold the cōtr'y.

Your bedman and contywal ſ'uaunt,

John Ruſſe.

9 by 9.

Paper Mark, Vine Branch, and Bunch of Grapes. Pl. x. N° 2.

[2] Jaſper Tudor, Earl of Pembroke, was in Ireland, endeavouring to procure aſſiſtance for the depoſed King Henry, his half-brother.

LETTER XII.

To my ryth reu'ent and worchepfull fadyr John Paſton be thys delyu'yd in haſt.

RYTH reu'ent and worchepfull fadyr I recomand me on to yow beſeechȳg yow lowly of yo[r] blyſſȳg, Pleſyt you to have knowlage y[t] my Lord is p'poſyd to ſend for my

Lady

and they ſay, this three weeks came there, neither Ship nor boat out of Ireland to bring no tidings; and ſo it ſeemeth there is much to do there by the Earl of [2] Pembroke; and it is ſaid, that the King ſhould be at London as on Saturday or Sunday laſt paſt, and men deem that he would to Calais himſelf; for the Soldiers are ſo wild there, that they will not let in any man but the King, or my Lord Warwick; other tiding there were come to London, but they were not publiſhed; but John Welles ſhall abide a day the longer to know what they are. No more unto you my right honourable Maſter at this time, but Jeſu ſend you your heart's deſire, and amend them that would the contrary.

Your Beadman and continual Servant,

JOHN RUSSE.

1462, 2 E. IV.

LETTER XV.

To my right reverend and worſhipful Father, John Paſton, be this delivered in haſte.

RIGHT reverend and worſhipful Father, I recommend me unto you, beſeeching you lowly of your bleſſing. Pleaſe it you to have knowledge, that my Lord is purpoſed to ſend for

[x] Lady and is lyke to kepe his Cryſtmas her in Walys for the Kȳg hathe deſyered hym to do y^e^ ſame wherfor I beſeche yow y^t^ wole wycheſave to ſend me ſume mony by the berer herof for in good feythe as it is not on knowȳg to yow y^t^ I had but ij [z] noblys in my purſe whyche y^t^ Rychard Call took me by yo^r^ comandement when I dep'tyd from yow owt of Norwyche the berer herof ſchuld bye me a gowne w^t^ pert of the mony if it pleſe yow to delyu' hym as myche mony as he may bye it w^t^ for I have but on gowne at [3] Framȳgh'm and an other her' and y^t^ is my [4] leu'e gowne and we muſt wer' hem eu'y day for y^e^ mor p't and on' gowne w^t^owt change wyll ſone be done. As for tydȳgys my Lord of Warwyk yed forward in to Scotland as on ſat'day laſt paſt w^t^ xx m^l^ men and Syr Wyll'm Tunſtale is tak w^t^ y^e^ garyſon of [5] Bamborowth and is lyke to be hedyd and by the menys of S^r^. Rychard [6] Tunſtale is owne brodyr. As ſone as I her any more tydȳgys I ſchall ſend hem yow by y^e^ g'ce of God who have yow in hys kepȳg. Wretyn in haſt at the caſt' of y^e^ Holt' upon halowmas daye.

Yo^r^ ſone and lowly Serūnt,

J. Paſton, Jun^r^.

11 ½ by 3 ¼.

John Paſton (Pl. IV. N° 9, or 11,) appears, according to the commendable cuſtom of thoſe times, to have been brought up in the family of John Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, and at this time, when he was ſcarcely twenty years of age, to have been an attendant upon him at his Caſtle of Holt, in Denbighſhire.

[1] Elizabeth, Ducheſs of Norfolk, was Daughter of John Talbot, the firſt Earl of Shrewſbury.

[2] A Noble is 6s. 8d.

[3] Framlingham Caſtle, in Suffolk, was the reſidence of the Duke of Norfolk.

LET-

my [1] Lady, and is like to keep his Chriſtmas here in Wales; for the King hath deſired him to do the ſame, wherefore I beſeech you that *(you)* would vouchſafe to ſend me ſome money by the bearer hereof; for, in good faith, as it is not unknown to you, that I had but two [2] Nobles in my purſe, which *(was)* that *(which)* Richard Calle took [*delivered*] me by your commandment, when I departed from you out of Norwich.

The Bearer hereof ſhould buy me a Gown with part of the money, if it pleaſe you to deliver him as much money as he may buy it with; for I have but one gown at [3] Framlingham and another here, and that is my [4] Livery Gown, and we muſt wear them every day for the more part, and one Gown without change will ſoon be done.

As for tidings, my Lord of Warwick yed [*went*] forwards into Scotland, as on Saturday laſt paſt with twenty thouſand men, and Sir William Tunſtall is taken with the garriſon of [5] Bamborough and is like to be headed, and by the means of Sir [6] Richard Tunſtall his own brother.

As ſoon as I hear any more tidings, I ſhall ſend them you by the grace of God, who have you in his keeping. Written in haſte at the Caſtle of the Holt, upon Holymas day.

Your Son and lowly Servant,

J. PASTON, Junior.

Holt,
1ſt of November, 1462,
2 E. IV.

[4] We learn from hence that the young Gentlemen attending upon the great men were generally obliged to appear dreſt in their Livery Gowns.

[5] Bamborough Caſtle, in Northumberland, was taken by Queen Margaret, and garriſoned with Scots.

[6] Sir William Tunſtall was taken in the garriſon on King Edward's part, whilſt his Brother Sir Richard, was in the army of Queen Margaret.

The Impreſſion on the Seal of this Letter is a Fleur de Lys. Pl. XIV. N° 22.

LET-

LETTER XLV.

To my Maiſt' John Paſton at Heyleſdon.

IT' pleſe you wete of oy[r] tytyngs, theſe Lords in yo[r] oy[r] lett' w[t] Lord Haſtyngs and oy[r] ben to Karlyle to reſſ[ve] in y[e] Qwen of [1] Scotts, and uppon this Appoynte[t] Erle [2] Duglas is comaunded to com' thens and as a ſorwefull and a ſore Rebuked man lyth in y[e] Abbey of Seynt Albons, and by y[e] ſaid appoynte[t] ſchall not be reputed nor taken but as an Englyſsheman and if he com' in the daung[r] of Scotts they to ſle hym. It' Kyng H'rry and his Aderents in Scotland ſchall be delyu'ed, and Lord Dakres of y[e] northe is wonne and yelden, and y[e] ſeid Lord S[r]. Ric' Tunſtall and on Byllȳgham in the ſaid Caſtell ben taken and heded. It' y[e] Qwen and P'nce ben in ffraunce and ha mad moche weyes and gret peple to com to Scotland and ther truſt to have Soco[r] and thens to com in to Inglond what ſchall falle I can not ſey, but I herd y[t] theſe appoyntements were take by y[e] yong Lords of Scotland but not by y[e] old.

Yo[r],

[3] Plait'.

Xpofer dyed on y[e] ſatarday next be for ſeynt Margret A°. E. ij[do].

12 by 4 ¼.

The facts mentioned in this Letter are curious, as well as thoſe relative to the Queen and Lords, as thoſe concerning Earl Douglas; and muſt have happened in 1462, or in the beginning of 1463.

[1] Mary, Daughter to Arnold, Duke of Guelders, was married to James II. King of Scotland in 1448, and died in 1463.

LET-

LETTER XVI.

To my Maſter, John Paſton, at Heyleſdon.

ITEM, pleaſe you weet of other tidings; theſe Lords in your other Letter with Lord Haſtyngs and others *(have)* been to Carliſle to receive in the Queen of [1] Scots. And upon this appointment, Earl [2] Douglas is commanded to come thence, and as a ſorrowful and a ſore rebuked man lieth in the Abbey of Saint Alban; and by the ſaid appointment ſhall not be reputed, nor taken, but as an Engliſhman, and if he come in the danger of Scots, they to ſlay him. Item, King Harry and his Adherents in Scotland ſhall be delivered; and Lord Dacre of the North is won and yielded, and the ſaid Lord, Sir Richard Tunſtall, and one Byllingham in the ſaid Caſtle be taken and headed. Item, the Queen and Prince have been in France and have made much ways and great [*number of*] People to come to Scotland and there truſt to have Succour, and thence to come into England. What ſhall fall I cannot ſay, but I heard that theſe appointments were taken by the young Lords of Scotland, but not by the old.

Your,

[3] PLAITERS.

Chriſtopher died on the Saturday next before Saint Margaret *(20th July)* in the 2d year of Edward IV.

After the 20th of July, 1462, 2 E. IV. } I believe in 1463.

[2] James, Earl of Douglas, was baniſhed his own Country, and being received by Edward in England with honour and reſpect, was by him made a Knight of the Garter. In 1483, he was taken priſoner by the Scots, and detained a priſoner till his death in 1488. He is ſaid to have entered into Holy Orders.

[3] Autograph. Pl. v. N° 14. Pl. xiv. N° 17.

LET-

LETTER XUIJ.

To my ryth worchepfull brodyr John Paſton the elder Sone of John Paſton eſquyer be thys delyu'yd in haſt.

RYTH worchepfull brodedyr, I recomaunde me to yow. Pleſyt yow to wet y[t] as thys day we had tydyngys her that the Scottys wyll come in to Inglend w[t] in vij days aftyr the wrytyng of thys lettyr for to reſcue theſe iij caſtellys Alnewyk Donſamborowe and Bameborowe, whyche caſtellys wer beſegyd as on yeſterdaye and at the Sege of Allnewyk lythe my Lord of [3] Kent and y[e] Lord [2] Scalys and at Donſameborow caſtyll lythe the Erle of [3] Wyrcetyr Syr Rafe Grey, and at the caſtyll of Bameborow lythe the Lord [4] Montagwe and Lord [5] Ogyll and othyr dyu's Lordys and Gentylmen that I knowe not and ther is

We have in this Letter a moſt accurate and intereſting Account of the Noblemen and others, employed in the Sieges of three Caſtles on the eaſtern ſhore of the County of Northumberland, taken by Queen Margaret, and now in the poſſeſſion of the Adherents and Friends of Henry VI.

We are informed, whence they received their Victuals and Ordnance, and of the ſoldierlike care and attention of the Earl of Warwick, who commanded the Forces of King Edward.

We may here obſerve that though the Troops were hired for a certain time, yet though that time was expired, they durſt not leave the Camp and return home; for if they did even get away by ſtealth, yet if diſcovered and taken, they would be ſeverely puniſhed.

Others who had not obeyed the King's Orders, and attended him in perſon, would likewiſe ſuffer ſeverely, unleſs they made proper excuſes for their abſence; and the Writer of this Letter kindly offers his Services from his connexion with men of conſequence about the King to have their excuſes admitted.

LETTER XVII.

To my right worſhipful Brother, John Paſton, the elder Son of John Paſton, Eſquire, be this delivered in haſte.

RIGHT worſhipful Brother, I recommend me to you. Pleaſe it you to weet, that as this day we had tidings, how that the Scots will come into England within ſeven days after the writing of this letter, for to reſcue theſe three caſtles, Alnwick, Dunſtanborough, and Bamborough; which Caſtles were beſieged, as on yeſterday; and at the Siege of Alnwick lieth my Lord of [1] Kent and the Lord [2] Scales, and at Dunſtanborough Caſtle lieth the Earl of [3] Worceſter and Sir Ralph Grey, and at the Caſtle of Bamborough lieth the [4] Lord Montague and the Lord [5] Ogle, and other divers Lords and Gentlemen, that I know not; and there is to them out of Newcaſtle

We here alſo ſee who were moſt in the Royal Favour.

Theſe Sieges were undertaken, our Hiſtorians ſay, ſoon after the Battle of Hexham, which was fought and won on the 15th of May, 1463, by King Edward, but according to this Account they were not undertaken till near eight months after.

The Caſtles of Bamborough and Dunſtanborough were ſoon taken, but that of Alnwick, being relieved by the Scots, the Garriſon marched out, probably, by treaty.

[1] William Neville, Lord Fauconbridge, now Earl of Kent.

[2] Anthony Widville, Lord Scales, afterwards Earl Rivers, was beheaded at Pontefract, in 1483.

[3] John Tiptoft, Earl of Worceſter, Lord Treaſurer and Lord Conſtable of England, was beheaded in 1470.

[4] John Neville, Lord Montague, and afterwards Marquis, was ſlain in the battle of Barnet, in 1471, fighting againſt King Edward.

[5] Lord Ogle, of Ogle Caſtle, in Northumberland.

is to hem owt of newe caſtyll ordynans I nowe bothe for the Segys and for the feld in cas that ther be ony feld takyn as I trow ther' ſhall none be not yet for the Scottys kepe no promes my Lord of [6] Warwyk lythe at y^e^ caſtyll of Warcorthe but iij myle owt of Alnewyk and he rydyth dayly to all thes caſtelys for to ou'ſe the ſegys and if they want vataylys or any othyr thyng he is redy for to p'uey it for them to hys power, the Kyng comandyd my Lord of [7] Norfolk for to condyth vetaylys and the ordynans owt of new caſtyll on to Warcorthe caſtyll to my Lord of Warwyk and ſo my Lord of Norfolk comandyd Syr John [8] Howard Syr Will'm Peche Syr Rob^t^ Chamberleyn Rafe Aſcheton and me Calthorp and Gorge and othyr for to go forthe w^t^ the vytalys and ordynans on to my Lord of Warwyk and ſo we wer w^t^ my Lord of Warwyk w^t^ y^e^ ordynans and vytalys yeſt'daye the Kyng lythe at Durham and my Lord of Norfolk at new caſtyll we have pepyll I now her In cas we abyd her I pray yow p'uey y^t^ I may have her more mony by Cryſtmas evyn at the fertheſt for I may get leve for to ſend non of my wagyd men home ageyne, ne man can get no leve for to go home but if they ſtell a wey and if they myth be knowe they ſchuld be ſcharply ponyſchyd mak as merry as ye can for ther is no Jop'te toward not yet and ther be any Joperte I ſchall ſone ſend yow word by the graſe of God, I wot well ye have more tydyngys then we have her but thes be true tydyngys.

Yelverton and Jeney ar lek for to be gretly ponyſchyd for be-

[6] Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick, ſlain in Barnet field, in 1471.
[7] John Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, died in 1475.

cauſe

Ordnance, I know, both for the Sieges, and for the Field, in caſe that there be any field taken, as I trow there ſhall none be not yet, for the Scots keep no promiſe. My Lord of [6] Warwick lieth at the Caſtle of Warkworth, but three miles out of Alnwick, and he rideth daily to all theſe Caſtles, for to overſee the Sieges; and if they want victuals, or any other thing, he is ready for to purvey it for them to his power. The King commanded my Lord of [7] Norfolk for to conduct victuals, and the ordnance out of Newcaſtle unto Warkworth Caſtle to my Lord of Warwick; and ſo my Lord of Norfolk commanded Sir John [8] Howard, Sir William Peche, Sir Robert Chamberlayne, Ralph Aſcheton and me, Calthrop, and Gorge, and others, for to go forth with the victuals and ordnance unto my Lord of Warwick, and ſo we were with my Lord of Warwick with the victuals and ordnance as yeſterday.

The King lieth at Durham, and my Lord of Norfolk at Newcaſtle; we have people enough here. In caſe we abide here, I pray you purvey, that I may have here more money by Chriſtmas Eve at the fartheſt, for I may get leave for to ſend none of my waged men home again; no man can get no leave for to go home, but if they ſteal away, and if they might be known, they ſhall be ſharply puniſhed; make as merry as ye can, for there is no jeopardy towards not yet, and there be any jeopardy, I ſhall ſoon ſend you word by the grace of God. I wot [*know*] well ye have more tidings than we have here, but theſe be true tidings.

Yelverton and Jenney are like for to be greatly puniſhed, for

[8] Sir John Howard, afterwards the firſt Duke of Norfolk, of that name.

cauſe they came not hedyr to the Kyng they ar morkyn well I nowe and ſo is John Bylyngforthe and Thom's Playter wherfor I am ryth ſory, I pray yow let them have wetyng therof y^{t} they may p'uey ther excuſe in haſt ſo that the Kyng may have knowlage why that they come not to hym in ther one p'ſonys let them come or ſend ther excuſe to me in wrytyng and I ſchall p'uey that the Kyng ſchall have knowlage of ther excuſe for I am well aqueyntyd w^{t} my Lord [9] Haſtyngys and my Lord [10] Dakarys whyche be now greteſt abowt the Kyngys perſon and alſo I am well aqueyntyd w^{t} the yonger Mortymere Fererys Hawte Harpor Crowmer and Boſewell of the kyngys howſe.

I pray yow let my Grandam and my coſyn Cler have knowlage how that I deſyryd you to let hem have knowlage of the tydyngys in thys letyr for I promyſyd for to ſend them tydyngys I p'ay yow let my modyr have cnowelage how y^{t} I and my felawſcep and your Seruūntys ar at y^{e} wrytyng of y^{s} lettyr in good hell bleſyd be God.

I pray yow let my fadyr have knowlage of thys lettyr and of the todyr lettyr y^{t} I ſent to my modyr by Felbryggys man and how that I p'ay bothe hym and my modyr lowly of her blyſſȳgys, I pray yow that ye wole ſend me ſome lettyr how ye do and of yo^{r} tydyngys w^{t} yow for I thynk longe that I her no word fro my modyr and yow I pray yow y^{t} thys bill may recomand me to my Syſtyr Margery and to my Maſtres Jone Gayne and to all gode Maſtyrys and felawys w^{t}in Caſtyr I ſent no lettyr to my fadyr nevyr ſyn I dep'tyd fro yow for I kowd get no man to

9 William, Lord Haſtyngs, beheaded in 1483.

London

becauſe they came not hither to the King; they are morkyn [*marked*] well I know, and ſo is John Byllingforth and Thomas Playters, wherefore I am right ſorry; I pray you let them have weeting thereof, that they may purvey their excuſe in haſte, ſo that the King may have knowledge, why that they came not to him in their own perſons; let them come, or ſend their excuſe to me in writing, and I ſhall purvey that the King ſhall have knowledge of their excuſe; for I am well acquainted with my Lord [9] Haſtyngs, and my Lord [10] Dacres, which be now greateſt about the King's Perſon; and alſo I am well acquainted with the younger Mortymer, Ferrers, Hawte, Harpur, Crowmer, and Boſewell of the King's Houſe.

I pray you let my Grandam, and my Couſin Clere have knowledge how that I deſired you to let them have knowledge of theſe tidings in this letter, for I promiſed for to ſend them tidings. I pray you let my Mother have knowledge, how that I, and my Fellowſhip, and your Servants are at the writing of this letter in good hell [*health*] bleſſed be God.

I pray you let my Father have knowledge of this letter, and of the other letter, that I ſent to my Mother by Felbrigg's man; and how that I pray both him and my Mother lowly of their bleſſings.

I pray you that you will ſend me ſome letter how ye do, and of your tidings with you, for I think long that I hear no word from my Mother and you.

I pray you that this bill may recommend me to my Siſter Margery, and to my Miſtreſs Joan Gayne [*Jenney*,] and to all good Maſters and Fellows within Caiſter.

[10] Richard Fines, Lord Dacre.

I ſent

London and neu' ſythe I pray yow in cas ye ſpake w^t my coſyn Margaret Clere recomande me to hyr and Almythy God have yow in hys kepyng Wretyn at Newcaſtyll on ſat' next aftyr y^e conſepſion of owyr Lady.

Yo^r,

[11] John Paſton, the Yongeſt.

I pray yow let Rychard Call ſe thys lettyr.

11 ½ by 8 ½.

[11] Autograph. Pl. IV. N° 11.

LETTER XUIJJ.

To my Rygth worſſchipful Coſyn John Paſton Squyer, be this Lett' delyu'yd, &c.

RYGHT worſſchypfull and Reu'ent Coſyn I recomaunde me on to you wyth al myn hert as your feythful Kynneſman and Oratour deſyrynge to her' of the goode proſp'ite and welfare of your worſſchipfull modyr my Lady and Coſyn wyth your wyff S^r. John Paſton your brethern Wylliam and Clement w^t all your Sonys and Doughters to whom I beſeche you hertely y^t I may be recomaundyd. God of his hyghe mercy p'ſ've you

I ſent no letter to my Father, never ſince I departed from you, for I could get no man to London and never ſince.

I pray you in caſe ye ſpeak with my Couſin Margaret Clere, recommend me to her; and Almighty God have you in his keeping. Written at Newcaſtle on Saturday next after the Conception of our Lady.

Your,

" JOHN PASTON, the youngeſt.

I pray you let Richard Calle ſee this letter.

Newcaſtle,
Saturday, 10th of December,
1463, 3 E. IV.

LETTER XVIII.

To my right Worſhipful Couſin, John Paſton, Eſquire, be this Letter delivered.

RIGHT worſhipful and reverend Couſin, I recommend me unto you, with all mine heart, as your faithful Kinſman and Orator, deſiring to hear of the good proſperity and welfare of your worſhipful Mother my Lady and Couſin, with your Wife, Sir John Paſton, your Brethren William and Clement, with all your Sons and Daughters, to whom I beſeech you heartily, that I may be recommended. God of his high mercy,

preſerve

you all un to hys m'cy and grace and ſave you from all adverſite.

Worſſchipfull Coſyn my ſpeciall writynge and hertys deſire afore reherſyd nature naturaly ſo me compellyth watt thou I be putt fer ought of conceyte and ſyght I have you all in remembrance both day and nyght beſechynge you gentyll Coſyn to tender my writynge I take God to my wyttneſſe I wold as fayn do y^{t} myght be un to your hono^{r} worſſchippe and p'fite as any herthly man can thynke.

Worfor now late deyde the Abbot of our Monaſtery and lefte us in grete ded the brynger heroff is my ſp'all frende, y^{e} holdyſt brother in our place neu' hard nor ſaw our chirche in y^{t} myſere y^{t} is now we have * caſt y^{e} perellys amongys us and y^{r} is now' other helpe butt eu'y brother y^{t} hath any worſſchipfull kynne or frendys eu'y man to do his part to the well fare ſocour and releve of our monaſteri y^{r}for worſſchipfull Coſyn I a brother of y^{t} worſſchipfull monaſtery wer inne begoon the feyth of all thys lond mekely beſechyth you in the reu'ence of allmygty God to render helpe and ſocour us in our grete neceſſite for in London lyth to wedde many ryche Jowells

This curious Letter, informing us of the ſtate of the Monaſtery of St. Auguſtine, in Canterbury, founded in 605, and in which Chriſtianity was firſt preached by St. Auguſtine, during the reign of Ethelbert, King Kent, was written by Henry Berry, (Pl. v. N° 19.) a religious there, and a relation of Dame Agnes Paſton, the widow of Sir William Paſton, the Judge, and the Daughter of Sir Edmund Berry, about 1463 or 1464, as Abbot James Sevenoke died in 1463, and was ſucceeded by William Selling, who continued Abbot till 1480.

preſerve you all unto his mercy and grace, and ſave you from all adverſity.

Worſhipful Couſin, my ſpecial writing and heart's deſire before rehearſed, nature naturally ſo me compelleth.

What though I be put far out of conceit and ſight,
I have you all in remembrance both day and night;

beſeeching you, gentle Couſin, to tender my writing. I take God to my witneſs, I would as fain do that might be unto your honour, worſhip, and profit, as any earthly man can think.

Wherefore now late died the Abbot of our Monaſtery, and left us in great debt; the Bringer hereof is my ſpecial Friend. The oldeſt Brother in our place never heard nor ſaw our Church in that miſery that (*it*) is now; we have †caſt the perils amongſt us, and there is none other help, but every brother that hath any worſhipful Kin or Friends, every man to do his part to the welfare, and ſuccour, and relief of our Monaſtery.

Therefore, worſhipful Couſin, I, a Brother of that worſhipful Monaſtery wherein begun the Faith of all this Land, meekly beſeecheth you, in the reverence of Almighty God to render help, and ſuccour us in our great neceſſity; for in London lieth to

The Letter is both pathetic and artful, the latter part from this Mark * (ſee p. 282) to the Subſcription is croſſed out but not ſo entirely as to hinder me from decyphering it as here given.

The Character at the beginning of this Letter I have often met with, and particularly at the beginning of Letters written by Eccleſiaſtics. It has ſome religious meaning I believe; I am apt to think it ſtands for I. H. S. and in this particular Letter, conſidering the form of the initial R, I ſuppoſe the whole to mean Jeſu Maria. Pl. v. N° 19.

† We have caſt, may here ſignify either, that we have *conſidered* the perils, or that we have *divided* them amongſt us.

Jowells of ouris w^{t} other grete detts wych my brother wyll enforme you of.

Pleſyth your goodneſſe for Godys ſake and all the Seyntts of evyn and att my ſympyll requeſt to have compaſſion upon us ye havynge dooe ſwerte both in obligacōns and pleggs in y^{e} reu'ens of all myghti God do your Allmeſſe and Charite hitt ſchall cauſe you to be prayed for and all your kynne as longe as the chirche ſtantt and be this menys I truſt to all myghty God to ſe my Coſyn Will'm or Clement to be Stward of our Londys and ſo to have an intreſſe in Kentt, to the worſſchippe of God and you all wych eu' have you in his kepynge Amen.

Writyn at Caunterbiry in haſt the xxviij^{ti} day of Januar'.

Alſo I beſeche you ſchew the brynger of this Lett' ſū hūanite and worſſchipe y^{t} when he comyth home he may reporte as he fyndeth.

* y^{s} is the cauſe eu'y wele thi putt my kynne in my berd ſeyinge I am come of Lordys Knygtes and Ladys I wold they wer in your daung^{r} a m^{l} m'ke y^{t} they mygte know you, &c.

Be your Coſyn and bedman,

Henry Berry.

xi ¾ by 6 ¾.

wed [*pawn*] many rich Jewels of ours, with other great debts, which my brother will inform you of.

Pleaſeth your goodneſs, for God's ſake, and all the Saints of Heaven, and at my ſimple requeſt, to have compaſſion upon us, ye having due ſurety both in Obligations and Pledges.

In the reverence of Almighty God, do your Alms and Charity; it ſhall cauſe you to be prayed for, and all your Kin as long as the Church ſtandeth; and by this means, I truſt to Almighty God, to ſee my Couſin William, or Clement, to be Steward of our Lands, and ſo to have an intereſt in Kent, to the worſhip of God and you all, which ever have you in his keeping. Amen.

Written at Canterbury in haſte the 28th day of January.

Alſo I beſeech you, ſhew the Bringer of this Letter ſome humanity and worſhip, that when he cometh home, he may report as he findeth.

* This is the cauſe every while they put my Kin in my beard, ſaying, I am come of Lords, Knights, and Ladies, I would they were in your danger a 1000 Marks (666*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*) that they might know you, &c.

By your Couſin and Beadman,

HENRY BERRY.

Canterbury,
28th of January,
1463 or 1464, 3 or 4 E. IV.

LETTER XIX.

To my rygte reu'ent and worchepfull Fadyr John Paſton dwellyng in Caſtyr be thys delyu'yd.

RYTH reu'ent and worchepfull Fadyr I recomand me on to yow beſechyng yow lowly of your blyſſyng deſyryng to her' of yow[r] wellfar and proſperyte the whyche I pray God p'ſerve on to hys pleſans and to yowyr hertys deſyir beſechyng yow to have me excuſyd y[t] ye had no wrytyng fro me ſyth y[t] I dep'tyd frome yow for ſo God me helpe I ſend yow a Lettyr to London anon aftyr Kandylmas by a man of my Lordys and he forgat to delyu' yt to yow and ſo he browt to me the lettyr ayen and ſythe y[t] tyme I kowd get no meſſenger tyll now.

As for Tydyngs ſyche as we have her' I ſend yow my [1] Lord and my Lady ar in good hele blyſſyd be God and my Lord hathe gret labor' and coſt her' in Walys for to take dyu's Gentyll men her' whyche wer conſentyñg and helpyng on to y[e] Dwke of Som'ſettys goyng and they wer' apelyd of othyr ſeteyn poyntys of treſon and thys mat' and bycauſe the Kyng ſent my Lord woord to keep thys Contre, is cauſe that my Lord terythe her' thus longe and now the Kyng hathe geve my Lord power whedyr he wole do execuſyon upon thes Gentyllmen or p'don hem whedyr that hym lyſt and as fertheforthe as I kan undyrſtand yet they

[1] John Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, and Elizabeth, Ducheſs of Norfolk.

LETTER XIX.

To my right reverend and worſhipful Father, John Paſton, dwelling in Caiſter, be this delivered.

RIGHT reverend and worſhipful Father, I recommend me unto you, beſeeching you lowly of your bleſſing, deſiring to hear of your welfare and proſperity, the which I pray God preſerve unto his pleſance, and to your heart's deſire; beſeeching you to have me excuſed, that ye have no writing from me ſince that I departed from you, for ſo God me help, I ſent you a Letter to London anon [*ſoon*] after Candlemas, by a man of my Lord's; and he forgot to deliver it to you, ſo he brought to me the letter again; and ſince that time I could get no Meſſenger till now.

As for tidings ſuch as we have here I ſend you.

My [1] Lord and my Lady are in good heel, [*health,*] bleſſed be God, and my Lord hath great labour and coſt here in Wales for to take diverſe Gentlemen here which were conſenting and helping unto the Duke of Somerſet's going; and they were appealed [*accuſed*] of other certain points of Treaſon, and this matter; and becauſe the King ſent my Lord word to keep this Country, is *(the)* cauſe that my Lord tarrieth here thus long; and now the King hath given my Lord power, whether he will do execution upon theſe Gentlemen, or pardon them, whether that him liſt [*pleaſeth,*] and as far forth as I can underſtand yet, they ſhall have grace,

they ſhall have Graſe and as ſone as thes men be com' in my Lord is perpoſyd to come to London whyche I ſupoſe ſchall be w^tin thys fortnyght the menys namys y^t be apechyd ar thes John Hanmer and Wyll^m hys Sone Roger Pulyſton and Edward of Madok theſe be men of worchepe y^t ſchall com' in.

The Comenys in Lancaſher and Cheſcher wer up to the nombyr of a x m^l or mor' but now they be downe ayen and on' or ij of hem was hedyd in Cheſtyr as on ſat'day laſt paſt.

[2] Thom's Danyell is her' in Cheſſcher but I wot not in what plaſe he hathe ſent iij or iiij letyrys to Syr John Howard ſyn' my Lord come hedyr.

And othyr tydynggs her we none her' but y^t I ſupoſe ye have herd befor I ſupoſe u'yly y^t it ſchall be ſonye Eſtern' er eu' my Lord come to London y^t I ſchal not move come home to yow befor' Eſtern wherfor I beſech yow y^t ye wole wyche ſave that on' of you^r men may ſend a byll to myn' Oncyll Clement or to ſom othyr man who y^t ye wole in youyr name y^t they may delyu' me the mony that I am behynd of y^is quarter ſyn Cryſtmas and for the next quarter in parte of y^t ſome y^t it pleſyd yow to grant me by yer for by my trowthe the Felawchep have not ſo myche mony as we wend to have had be ryth myche for my Lord hath had gret coſts ſyn he cam' hedyr.

Wherfor I beſech yow that I may have y^is mony at Eſtern for I have

[2] This gentleman had a reverſionary Grant of the Conſtableſhip of Riſing Caſtle, in 1448, 27 H. VI. He married Margaret, Daughter of Sir Robert Howard, and Siſter of Sir John, afterwards Duke of Norfolk. He is ſaid to have been attainted in the 1 E. IV. but fully reſtored both in blood and poſſeſſions in the 14th of the ſame King. He was Eſquire of the body to Henry VI.

After

and as ſoon as theſe men be come in, my Lord is purpoſed to come to London, which I ſuppoſe ſhall be within this fortnight; the men's names that be impeached are theſe, John Hanmer and William his Son, Roger Puliſton and Edward of Madoc, theſe be men of worſhip that ſhall come in.

The Commons in Lancaſhire and Cheſhire were up to the number of a 10,000, or more, but now they be down again; and one or two of them was headed in Cheſter as on Saturday laſt paſt.

[2] Thomas Daniel is here in Cheſhire, but I wot not in what place, he hath ſent three or four Letters to Sir John Howard, ſince my Lord came hither.

And other tidings have we none here, but that I ſuppoſe ye have heard before; I ſuppoſe verily that it ſhall be ſo nigh Eaſter ere ever my Lord come to London, that I ſhall not move, *(to)* come home to you before Eaſter; wherefore I beſeech you, that ye will vouchſafe, that one of your men may ſend a bill to mine Uncle Clement, or to ſome other man, who that ye will, in your name, that they may deliver me the money that I am behind of the quarter ſince Chriſtmas; and for the next quarter, in part of that ſum that it pleaſed you to grant me by the year; for by my truth, the Fellowſhip have not ſo much money as we wend [*thought*] to have had by right much; for my Lord hath had great coſts ſince he came hither.

Wherefore I beſeech you, that I may have this money at

After the Deſtruction of the Queen's Affairs, and the Capture of the King; Edmund Beaufort, Duke of Somerſet, privately retired into Wales, where he was aſſiſted in his flight into the Low Countries, by the Welſh, and Edward, being at this time endeavouring to become popular, granted many pardons to thoſe who had aſſiſted his Enemies.

In 1464, Eaſter Sunday fell on the 25th of March. Autograph. Pl. IV. N° 11.

Eaſter,

I have borowyd mony y^t^ I muſt paye ayen aft' Eſtern and I pray to Allmyty God have yow in kepyng.

Wretyn in y^e^ Caſtyll of the Holte in Walys the fyrſt day of Marche.

Yo^r^ Sone and lowly S'vāt,

John Paſton, y^e^ yongeſt.

11 ½ by 10.

LETTER XX.

To Maſt' John Paſton or to my Meſtreſſe hys Modre be this lett' delyu'yd in haſt.

BROTHER I comand me to yow *(then follows an order for making out an account and receiving ſome Rents, &c.)*

By Juddy I ſende yow a lett' by Corby w^t^ in iiij dayes byffor thys and ther w^t^ ij potts off oyle for [1] Saladys whyche oyle was goode as myght be when I delyu'yd itt and ſchall be goode at y^e^ reſeyvynge iff it be nott myſſe handelyd nor myſſe karryd, Itm as ffor tydyngs the Erle off [2] Northomb'londe is hoome in

[1] This Letter, though without any name, was written by Sir John Paſton, (Pl. IV. N° 9.) to his Brother John Paſton, and the mention of Oil for Sallads, ſhews us that at this time Vegetables for the Table were ſtill cultivated here; for the common opinion has been

Eaſter, for I have borrowed money, that I muſt pay again after Eaſter.

And I pray Almighty God have you in keeping.

Written in the Caſtle of the Holt, in Wales, the firſt day of March.

Your Son and lowly Servant,

JOHN PASTON, the youngeſt.

Holt Caſtle,
Denbighſhire,
1ſt March, 1463-4, 3 E. IV.

LETTER XX.

To Maſter John Paſton, or to my Miſtreſs his Mother, be this Letter delivered in haſte.

BROTHER, I commend me to you (*then follows an order for making out an Account, and receiving ſome Rents, &c.*)

By Juddy I ſent you a Letter by Corby within four days before this; and therewith two Pots of Oil for [1] Sallads, which oil was good as might be when I delivered it, and ſhall be good at the receiving, if it be not miſhandled, nor miſcarried.

Item, as for tidings the Earl of [2] Northumberland is home

been, that moſt of our Fruits and Garden Productions were ſo entirely neglected during theſe civil wars, as to have been almoſt totally deſtroyed.

[2] John Neville, was created Earl of Northumberland, in 1463, but reſigned this title in 1469, to the family of Percy, the ancient poſſeſſors of it.

in to y^e^ Noothe and my Lord off [3] Glowceſt' ſchall afftr as to morow men ſeye Alſo thys daye Robert of Racclyff weddyd the Lady Dymmok at my place in ffleetſtreet and my Ladye and yowrs Dame Elizbeth [4] Bowghcher is weddyd to y^e^ Lorde Howards Soon and Heyr, alſo S^r^ Thomas Walg've is ded off y^e^ ſykneſſe y^t^ reygnyth on teweſdaye, now cheer ffor yowe, alſo my Lorde [5] Archebyſshope was browt to y^e^ towr on ſat'day at nyght and on mondaye at mydnyght he was conveyd to a ſchyppe and ſo in to y^e^ ſee and as yitt I can nott undreſtande whedyr he is ſent ner whatt is fallyn off hym men ſeye y^t^ he hathe offendyd, but as John ffort' ſeythe ſome men ſey naye but all hys meny ar dyſparblyd eu'y man hys weye and ſom y^t^ ar greete Klerkys and famous Doctors of hys goo now ageyn to Cambrygge to Scoolle As ffor any other tydyngs I heer noon the cownteſſe off [6] Oxenfford is ſtylle in Seynt Martyns I heer no worde off hyr, the Qween hadde chylde a [7] Dowghter but late at Wyndeſor ther off I trow ye hadde worde, And as ffor me I am in lyke caſe as I was and as ffor my Lorde [8] Chamb'leyn he is nott yitt comen to town when he comythe than ſchall I weete what to doo, S^r^ John off Parr is yowr ffrende and myn and

[3] Richard Plantagenet, afterwards King Richard III.

[4] Thomas Howard, Son of John Lord Howard, was created Earl of Surrey, by Richard III. and Duke of Norfolk, by Henry VIII. He married Elizabeth, Daughter and Heir of Sir Frederick Tilney, Kt, and widow of Humphrey Bourchier, Lord Berners; ſhe died about 1507. Their Son Thomas, afterwards Duke of Norfolk, was born about 1470.

[5] I ſuppoſe this means George Neville, Archbiſhop of York, and brother to Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick, who at this time was greatly diſcontented with the proceed-

ings

into the North, and my Lord of [3] Glouceſter ſhall after as to-morrow, men ſay. Alſo this day Robert of Ratclyff wedded the Lady Dymock at my place in Fleet-ſtreet, and my Lady and yours, Dame [4] Elizabeth Bourchier, is wedded to the Lord Howard's Son and Heir. Alſo Sir Thomas Walgrave is dead, of the ſickneſs that reigneth, on Tueſday, now [*Query no*] cheer for you.) Alſo my Lord [5] Archbiſhop was brought to the Tower on Saturday at night; and on Monday, at midnight, he was conveyed to a Ship, and ſo into the Sea, and as yet I cannot underſtand whither he is ſent, nor what is fallen [*become*] of him; men ſay, that he hath offended; but, as John Forter ſaith, ſome men ſay nay; but all his meny [*family*] are diſparbled [*diſperſed*], every man his way; and ſome that are great Clerks, and famous Doctors of his, go now again to Cambridge to ſchool.

As for any other tidings I hear none; the Counteſs of [6] Oxford is ſtill in St. Martin's, I hear no word of her.

The Queen had Child a [7] Daughter but late at Windſor, thereof I trow ye had word. And as for me, I am in like caſe, as I was; and as for my Lord [8] Chamberlain he is not yet come to Town, when he cometh then ſhall I weet what to do. Sir John of Parr is your Friend and mine, and I gave him a

ings of the King, and perhaps had drawn his brother the Archbiſhop into the commiſſion of ſome act diſagreeable to Edward.

[6] Margaret, wife of John de Vere, Earl of Oxford, was Daughter of Richard Neville, Earl of Saliſbury, and Siſter of Richard, Earl of Warwick.

This Lady ſuffered much, both from poverty and diſtreſs, during the impriſonment and exile of her huſband.

[7] Elizabeth, afterwards Queen Conſort of Henry VII. by this marriage the white and red Roſes were united; ſhe was born in February 1465.

[8] William, Lord Haſtyngs.

and I gaffe hym a ffayr armyng Sworde w^in this iij dayes. I harde ſomwhat by hym off a bakke ffreende off yowr ye ſchall knowe moor her afftr.

Wretyn the laſt daye of Apryll.

12 by 10 ¾.

Paper Mark,
A Demy Bull.
Pl. x. N° 5.

LETTER XXJ.

To Meſtreſſe Margret Paſton be thys delyu'yd.

RYGHT Worchypfull Moodre I comand me to yow and beſeche yow of yowr blyſſyng and Gods thanke yow ffor yowr tendreneſſe and helpe bothe to me my brother and ſervants.

(Then follows an Account of Monies, Debts, &c. a Diſpute with his Uncle William, and a Deſire to defer his Siſter Margery's Marriage with Richard Calle till Chriſtmas, &c.)

The Kynge is comyn to London, and ther cam' w^t hym and roode ageyn him the Duke of [1] Glowceſtr the Duke of Suffolke

This Letter, of Sir John Paſton, (Pl. IV. N° 9.) to his mother, appears to have been written between the years 1466 and 1469, after King Edward's marriage, and the conſequent diſpleaſure of the Earl of Warwick; but as it has no date the preciſe time cannot be aſcertained, nor have our Hiſtories mentioned any public entry of the King into London, on his coming from York, about this Period.

fair arming Sword within this three days. I heard ſomewhat by him of a back friend of yours; and ye ſhall know more hereafter.

Written the laſt day of April.

30th of April,
1466,
6 E. IV.

LETTER XXI.

To Miſtreſs Margaret Paſton, be this delivered.

RIGHT worſhipful Mother, I commend me to you, and beſeech you of your bleſſing and God's; thank you for your tenderneſs and help both to me, my brother, and Servants. *(Then follows an Account of Money, Debts, &c. a Diſpute with his Uncle William, and a Deſire to defer his Siſter Margery's marriage with Richard Calle till Chriſtmas, &c.)*

The King is come to London, and there came with him, and rode again [*and rode to meet*] him, the Duke of [1] Glouceſter, the

Here is no mention of any of the Queen's Relations as attendant on the King, who is ſaid to ſpeak of the Duke of Clarence, the Earls of Warwick and Oxford, and the Archbiſhop of York as his beſt Friends, though thoſe of his Houſehold knew he regarded them in a very different light.

[1] Richard Plantagenet, Duke of Glouceſter, afterwards Richard III.

Duke

[2] Suffolke y[e] Erle of [3] Aroundell the Erle of [4] Northumbreland the Erle of [5] Eſſex, the Lordes Harry and John of [6] Bokyngh'm the Lord [7] Dakres the Lorde [8] Chambreleyn the Lorde [9] Montjoye, and many other knyghtys and Sqwyers, the Meyr of London xxij Aldremen in ſkarlett and of the Crafftys men of the town to y[e] nombre of CC all in blewe. The Kynge come thorow Chepe thowe it wer owt of hys weye be cawſe he wold not be ſeyn, and he was accompanyed in all peple w[t] m[l] horſſe ſom harneyſyd and ſom nat. My Lorde [10] Archebyſshop com w[t] hym ffrom Yorke and is at y[e] [11] Moor and my Lorde of [12] Oxenfford roode to have mett y[e] Kyng and he is w[t] my Lorde Archebyſshop at y[e] moor and come nat to town w[t] the kynge ſome ſey y[t] they wer yeſt'daye iij myle to y[e] Kyng wards ffrom the moor and that the Kyng ſent them a maſſangr that they ſcholde come when y[t] he ſent ffor them. I wot not what to ſuppoſe therin, the Kyng hymſelffe hathe good langage of the Lords of [13] Clarance of [14] Warwyk and of my Lords of York of Oxenfford ſeyng they be hys beſt ffrendys, but hys howſelde men have other langage ſo that what ſchall haſtely ffalle I cannot ſeye.

[2] John de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk, he married Elizabeth, Siſter of Edward IV.

[3] William Fitzalan, Earl of Arundel, married Joan, Daughter of Richard Neville, Earl of Saliſbury.

[4] John Neville, Earl of Northumberland, from 1463 to 1469

[5] Henry Bourchier, Earl of Eſſex, he married Cecily, Aunt to Edward IV.

[6] Theſe two Lords were of the family of Stafford, Duke of Buckingham.

[7] Richard Fynes, Lord Dacre.

[8] William, Lord Haſtyngs.

[9] Walter Blount, created Lord Montjoy, in 1465.

My

Duke of [2] Suffolk, the Earl of [3] Arundel, the Earl of [4] Northumberland, the Earl of [5] Eſſex; the Lords Harry and John of [6] Buckingham, the Lord [7] Dacre, the Lord [8] Chamberlain, the Lord [9] Montjoy and many other Knights and Eſquires; the Mayor of London, 22 Aldermen, in ſcarlet, and of the Craftſmen of the Town to the number of 200, all in blue.

The King came through Cheap, though it were out of his way, becauſe [*if he had not*] he would not be ſeen; and he was accompanied in all people with 1000 horſe, ſome harneſſed and ſome not.

My Lord [10] Archbiſhop came with him from York, and is at the [11] Moor, and my Lord of [12] Oxford rode to have met the King, and he is with my Lord Archbiſhop at the Moor; and came not to town with the King. Some ſay, that they were yeſterday three miles to the King wards from the Moor; and that the King ſent them a Meſſenger, that they ſhould come when that he ſent for them.

I wot [*know*] not what to ſuppoſe therein.

The King himſelf hath good language of the Lords of [13] Clarence, of [14] Warwick, and of my Lords of York and of Oxford, ſaying, they be his beſt friends; but his houſehold men have other language, ſo what ſhall haſtily fall I cannot ſay. My

[10] George Neville, Archbiſhop of York.
[11] The Moor, a Seat of the Archbiſhop's in Hertfordſhire.
[12] John de Vere, Earl of Oxford.
[13] George Plantagenet, Duke of Clarence.
[14] Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick.

Lord.

My Lorde of [15] Norff ſchall be her thys nyght, I ſchall ſende yow mor when I knowe mor.

Itm iff [16] Ebyſh'm come not home w^t myn oncle W. y^t than ye ſende me y^e ij ffrenſhe bookys y^t he ſcholde have wretyn y^t he may wryght them her.

John Paſton, Kt.

8 ½ by 11 ¾.
Paper Mark,
A Bunch of Grapes.
Pl. x. N° 4.

The Seal is round, having a Fleur de Lys in the centre, ſurrounded by ten ſmall ones each in a circle. Pl. xiv. N° 23.

[15] John Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk.

LETTER XXIJ.

To his Worchepfull Broder John Paſton be thys delyu'ed in haſt.

RYGHT reu'erēt and worchepfull Broder after all dewtes of recomēdacōn I recomaūde me to yow deſyryng to her' of yo^r p'ſp'ite and welfare, whych I p'y God long to cōtynew to hys pleſore, and to yo^r herts deſyr, letyng yow wete that I receyved a Lett' from yow, in the whyche lett' was viij^d w^t y^e whyche I ſchuld bye a peyer of ſlyppers.

Ferthermor certyſying yow as for y^e xiij^s iiij^d, whyche ye ſende by a Jentylmañys man, for my borde, cawlyd Thomas Newton, was delyu'ed to myn hoſtes, and ſoo to my Creancer, M' Thomas Stevēſon, and he hertely recomēded hym to yow.

Alſo ye ſende me worde in the lett' of xij^li [1] fyggs and viij^li

[1] Theſe were for his ſubſiſtence in Lent.

reyſons,

Lord of [15] Norfolk, ſhall be here this night. I ſhall ſend you more when I know more.

Item, if [16] Ebyſham come not home with my Uncle William, that then ye ſend me the two French Books, that he ſhould have written, that he may write them here.

JOHN PASTON, Knight.

[16] Ebyſham was a Tranſcriber of Books, an Employment much patroniſed before the invention of Printing.

LETTER XXII.

To his Worſhipful Brother, John Paſton, be this delivered in haſte.

RIGHT reverend and worſhipful Brother, after all duties of recommendation, I recommend me to you, deſiring to hear of your proſperity and welfare, which I pray God long to continue to his pleaſure, and to your heart's deſire; letting you weet that I received a letter from you, in the which Letter was 8*d.* with the which I ſhould buy a pair of Slippers.

Farthermore certifying you as for the 13*s.* 4*d.* which ye ſent by a Gentleman's man, for my board, called Thomas Newton, was delivered to mine Hoſteſs, and ſo to my Creanſor [*Creditor*] Mr. Thomas Stevenſon; and he heartily recommended him to you; alſo ye ſent me word in the Letter of 12*lb.* of [1] Figgs

reyſons, I have them not delyu'ed, but I dowte not I ſhal have for Alwedyr tolde me of them and he ſeyde y^t^ they came aftyr in an other barge.

And as for the Yong Jentylwomā, I wol certyfye yow how I fryſte felle in Qweyntaīce w^t^ hyr, hir ffader is dede, ther be ij ſyſters of them y^e^ elder is juſt weddyd, at the whych weddyng I was w^t^ myn hoſtes, and alſo deſyryd by y^e^ Jentylmā hym ſelfe cawlyd Wyllm Swanne whos dwyllynge is in Eton. So it fortuned that myn' hoſtes reportyd on me odyrwyſe than I was wordy, ſo that hyr moder comau'dyd hyr to make me good chere, and ſoo in good feythe ſche ded; ſche is not a bydynge ther ſche is now hyr dwellyng is in London. But hyr moder and ſche cō to a place of hyrs v myle from Eton were y^e^ weddyng was, for becauſe it was nye to y^e^ Jentylmā whych weddyd hyr Dowtyr. And on monday next comynge y^t^ is to ſey y^e^ [2] fyrſt monday of clene Lente, hyr moder and ſche wyl goo to y^e^ pardon at Schene, and ſoo forthe to London and ther to abyde in a place of hyrs in Bowe Chyrche yerde, and if it pleſe yow to inquere of hyr, hyr modyrs name is Meſtres Alborow y^e^ name of the Dowtyr is [3] Margarete Alborow the age of hyr is be all lykelyod xviij or xix yere at y^e^ fertheſte, and as for the mony and plate it is redy when ſoo eu' ſche were weddyd, but as for the lyvelod I trow not tyll aft' hyr modyrs

[2] In 1468, the firſt Sunday in Lent fell on the 28th of February, which agrees with the date, St. Mathias being on the 24th of February. Sheen, is now called Richmond, ſo named by Henry VII.

[3] He is very particular in his account of his Miſtreſs's fortune, perſon, age, &c. his own

and 8*lb*. of Raiſins, I have them not delivered, but I doubt not I ſhall have, for Alweder told me of them, and he ſaid, that they came after in another Barge.

And as for the young Gentlewoman, I will certify you how I firſt fell in acquaintance with her; her father is dead, there be two Siſters of them, the elder is juſt wedded; at which wedding I was with mine hoſteſs, and alſo deſired [*invited*] by the Gentleman himſelf, called William Swan, whoſe dwelling is in Eton. So it fortuned that mine Hoſteſs reported on me otherwiſe than I was worthy; ſo that her mother commanded her to make me good Cheer; and ſo in good faith ſhe did; ſhe is not abiding where ſhe is now, her dwelling is in London; but her Mother and ſhe came to a place of hers five miles from Eton, where the wedding was, for becauſe it was nigh to the Gentleman, which wedded her Daughter; and on Monday next coming, that is to ſay, the [2] firſt Monday of clean Lent, her Mother and ſhe will go to the Pardon at Sheene, and ſo forth to London, and there to abide in a place of hers in Bow Church-Yard; and if it pleaſe you to enquire of her, her Mother's name is Miſtreſs Alborow, the name of the Daughter is [3] Margaret Alborow, the age of her is, by all likelyhood, 18 or 19 years at the fartheſt; and as for the money and plate it is ready whenſoever ſhe were wedded; but as for the Livelihood, I trow [*I believe*], not till after her Mother's

own age was at this time I ſuppoſe about 18 or 20, a time of life when he might have been better employed than in learning to make verſes: of theſe here given, I can make nothing; but an ingenious Friend has attempted a ſolution in a following note*.

modyrs deſeſe, but I can not telle yow for very certeyn, but yow may know by inqueryng, And as for hyr bewte juge yow that when ye ſee hyr yf ſo be that ye take y^e^ laubore and ſpecialy beolde hyr handys for and if it be as it is tolde me ſche is dyſpoſyd to be thyke.

And as for my comynge from Eton I lake no thynge but werſyfyynge whyche I troſte to have w^t^ a lytyll cōtynuāce.

* Qr. Q°. nō valet hora valet mora, unde dī |◦| Arbore iā videas exemplū. nō die poſſūt Omīa ſupleri. ſz tū illa mora.

And thes too v'ſe afore ſeyde be of myn own makyng.

No more to yow at thys tyme but God have yow in hys kepyng.

Wretyn at Eton the even of Seynt Mathy the Apoſtyll in haſte w^t^ the hande of yo^r^ broder.

[4] Wyllm Paſton, Jun^r^.

[4] 11 by 7.

* Quære, Quomodo non valet hora, valet mora?
Unde dictum vel deductura?
Arbore jam videas exemptum. Non die poſſunt
Omnia ſuppleri; ſed tamen illa mora.

Perhaps the words preceding young Paſton's attempt at a diſtich, exhibit only a common Theme given out at ſchool, with ſome formulary query annexed to it. On this Theme

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deceaſe, but I cannot tell you for very certain, but you may know by enquiring.

And as for her Beauty, judge you that, when you ſee her, if ſo be that ye take the labour; and ſpecially behold her hands, for and if it be, as it is told me, ſhe is diſpoſed to be thick.

And as for my coming from Eton, I lack nothing but verſifying, which I truſt to have with a little continuance.

* Quare, Quomodo. Non valet hora, valet mora.

Unde dī |◦|

Arbore jam videas exemplum. Non die poſſunt

Omnia ſuppleri, ſed tū illa mora.

And theſe two verſes aforeſaid be of mine own making.

No more to you at this time, but God have you in his keeping.

Written at Eton the even of Saint Mathias the Apoſtle in haſte, with the hand of your Brother.

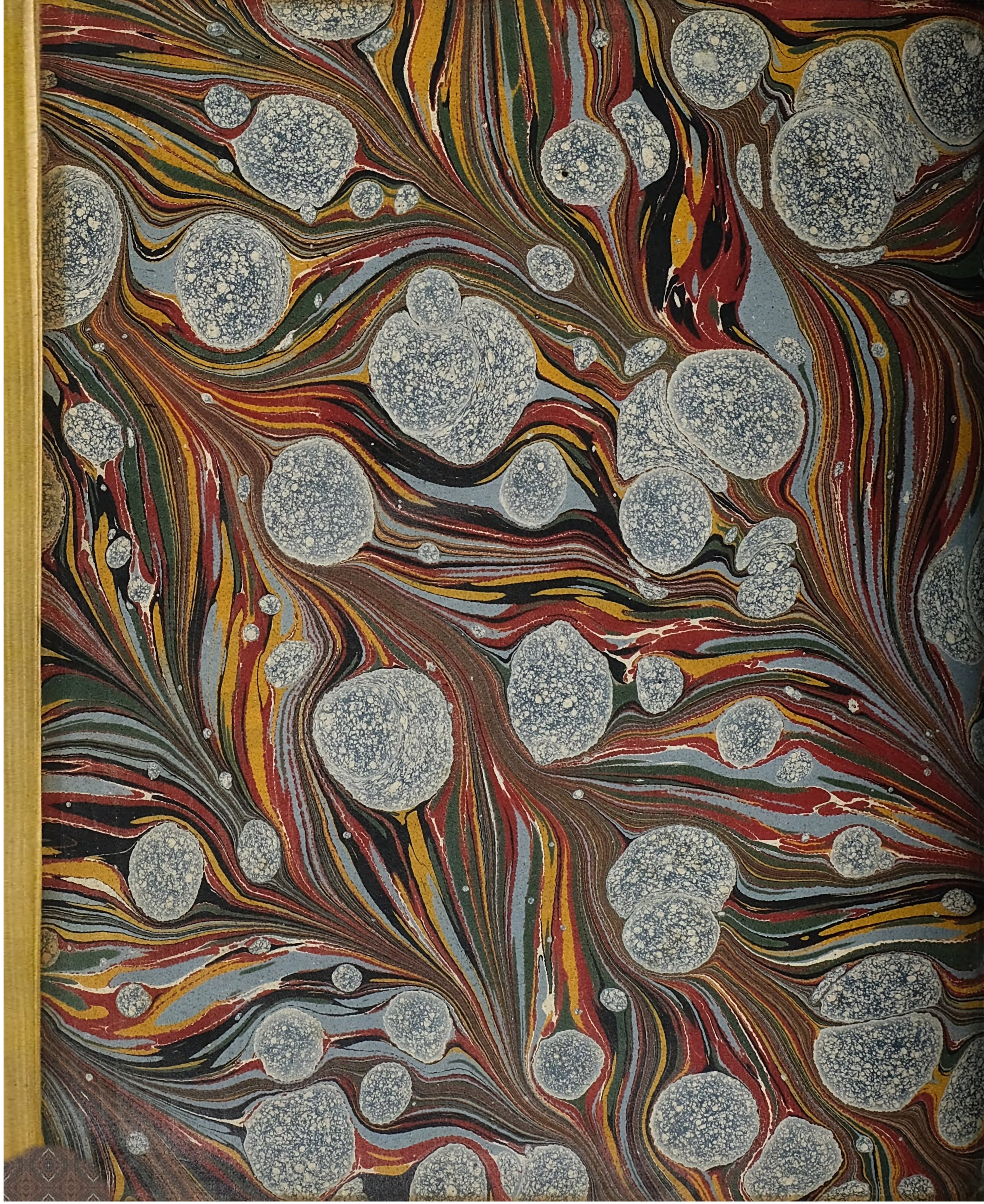
[4] WILLIAM PASTON, Junior.

Eton,
Wedneſday, 23d of February,
1467-8, 7 E. IV.

Theme the hexameter and pentameter appear to have been written. It is needleſs to particularize their defect in quantity, &c. That verſification, however, was attended to in our public ſchools, at this early period, may be aſcertained by ſuch imperfect lines, as well as by a more correct performance. See likewiſe Letter XLIII. p. 171. 173.

[4] A Younger Son, of John Paſton, Eſquire, by Margaret, Daughter of John Mawteby, Eſquire, and brother of Sir John Paſton, Knight. Pl. v. N° 13.

END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.





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Fenn, John

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